



## Liver Pathology

Since 2007, liver pathology in the UK has been developed and coordinated by a subcommittee of the BSG Pathology Section. The EQA scheme has increased to 100 members, and the EQA scheme together with other liver pathology CPD matters are available on line at [http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/ega/liver\\_pages.php](http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/ega/liver_pages.php)

A group met on 29.09.14 to develop a proposal for a "UK Liver Pathology Group" to improve the visibility of our activities and facilitate communication of developments and good practice among all pathologists who report liver specimens in the UK. This currently covers a wide spectrum, from specialists exclusively reporting liver specimens (including tertiary referrals, transplant, resection and paediatric specimens) to general pathologists reporting fewer than 20 biopsies per year (see recommendations in 'Tissue Pathways' below). The remit of the group is to cover the activities listed in the headings below. The group is currently exploring the possibility of having an affiliation to the British Association for the Study of Liver (BASL).

### Training and education (UG PG CPD)

#### CPD:

There is an established cycle of annual liver pathology CPD meetings which comprises:

- "Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease - held annually at RCPATH since 2009, most recently Sept 30th 2014,
- Annual BSG "Update in Liver Pathology". This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, which include both recent advances in liver pathology, and discussion of the year's two Liver histopathology EQA circulations. 2014 meeting will be in Stratford on 20th November.
- Liver Transplant Histopathology meeting- for pathologists in the 8 UK and Ireland transplant centres. This meeting runs concurrently with the annual British Liver Transplant Group meeting. With effect from this year's meeting held in Newcastle on 18<sup>th</sup> September, this meeting will take place at the end of the annual BASL meeting .

#### Postgraduate:

BDIAP workshop in Liver Pathology - on Friday 28th March 2014 in Leeds. This was a slide seminar meeting, with the opportunity to preview virtual slides. It was designed for senior trainees and consultants, and was well received. We plan to repeat this in 2015, and have sought support from RCPATH to organise it.

We continue to provide suitable cases with special stains for the final FRCPATH exam.

#### Undergraduate:

We are collecting data on the liver pathology included in undergraduate curricula in different medical schools, with a view to providing on-line training materials.

### Research and clinical trials issues



The BASL/CLRN UK HCC Clinical Trial Group is a national initiative to carry out collaborative research and clinical trials involving patients with HCC in the UK. First meeting held in Cambridge, September 2013. The group has submitted a proposal for the prospective collection of blood, urine and tissue samples (submitted to CRUK, October 2013 – still under review following resubmission). Next meeting scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Royal Free Hospital, London

### **New developments and issues affecting service delivery**

Histopathology 24 hour on call service for donor lesion frozen sections: this is for incidental lesions in any organ discovered during transplant organ harvesting. Currently provided by liver transplant centres, long term solution using digital images is being investigated. In 2013-14 there was a 6 month prospective audit to explore the scope of the service required – results not yet available.

JW represented the RCPATH at the scoping meetings in March 2014 for the NICE clinical guidance on a) assessment and management of cirrhosis (anticipated publication date - May 2016) and b) assessment and management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in adults, children and young people (anticipated publication date - TBC). Both include reference to the indications for liver biopsy.

Following the publication of the Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies, a group of pathologists, radiologists and hepatologists is developing national guidance for medical liver biopsies, to include recommendations for optimal techniques to obtain biopsies of adequate size

### **Overview of College Documents ‘owned’ or contributed to by the specialty**

- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies - second edition published March 2014.
- Dataset for liver cancer - published June 2012. Planning 3rd version; also currently collaborating in the ICCR liver cancer dataset.
- Audit templates: Medical liver biopsy audit and medical liver biopsy - clinicopathological audit, being tested - now ready to publish. What is the experience of these audit templates?

### **Workforce planning and recruitment to the specialty**

Liver pathology outside specialist centres is provided by GI pathologists (larger departments) or by non-specialist pathologists. The 2014 Tissue Pathways liver biopsy document includes recommendations on service delivery for departments receiving small numbers of medical liver biopsies. Hepatology networks and referral pathways for specialist opinion are slowly beginning to develop, with regional variation. We aim to ensure there is support and CPD for pathologists working in different types of department.

### **Suggestions for educational events that might be hosted by the College**

The annual medical liver biopsy meeting already uses the College facilities. We have contacted RCPATH for support in organising a slide based workshop in liver pathology.

*JIW/SGH 08.11.14 on behalf of liver subcommittee, Pathology Section, BSG.*