

Annual Meeting of Cellular Pathology Subspecialty Advisors, 3rd November 2021
Subspecialty Report for Liver Pathology

Since September 2016, liver pathology activities in the UK have been developed and coordinated by the UK Liver Pathology Group (UKLPG). This has the following remit:

To promote excellence in liver histopathology services in the UK and Ireland, across all levels of specialisation, through professional collaboration in education, quality assurance and research.

This is delivered by subcommittees; education & training, quality assurance and research, alongside representatives for transplantation, paediatric liver pathology and trainees. Committee meetings are usually held 3 or 4 times/year. Meetings have taken place via Teams; 15th January, 16th April, 2nd July, 8th October.

The UKLPG has around 110 full members, comprising the members of the National Liver Pathology EQA scheme. There is an annual subscription fee of £30, which also includes optional free membership of the British Association for the Study of Liver (BASL), the British Liver Transplant Group (BLTG) and HCC-UK. There are also options for associate, trainee and overseas membership to allow people with an interest in liver pathology to benefit from our CPD activities without being full members of the Group.

1. New developments and issues affecting service delivery

Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma now needs molecular input.

2. Staffing and Recruitment

See above re members of the UKLPG. Medical liver biopsies are received by nearly all histopathology departments, but sub-specialisation in liver pathology is generally restricted to hospitals providing tertiary liver services. One aim of the UKLPG is to provide accessible liver pathology CPD designed for non-specialist pathologists. As with other smaller specialties, succession arrangements for pathologists working in tertiary referral centres can be problematic.

3. Training

Liver pathology CPD meetings have been held via virtual platforms this year, as follows:

- Annual Liver Pathology Update Meeting (running since 2006) - 5th November 2020.
- Enigma of the liver biopsy RCPATH event, a day of lectures 14th May 2021 followed by bitesize topic specific sessions x 6 delivered during June and July 2021.
- Liver transplant pathology - 7th October 2021.
- Postgraduate training materials available online (see below for link) include virtual slides from >390 previous liver EQA cases and Power Point presentations from liver pathology CPD meetings referred to above.



- Opportunities are available, currently on an ad hoc basis, for training in liver pathology for post-exam trainees, who are considering applying for consultant posts which include a substantial component of liver pathology.

4. Interpretive EQA

There have been 3 recent changes:

- The scheme is now fully digital.
- Rather than free text responses (subjective and time consuming to collate) participants now chose from dropdown menus for lesion (if present) pattern of liver injury (signposting the RCPATH tissue pathways document) and aetiology. There is still a character limited free text box for comments.
- One circulation will be discussed virtually and the other at the annual update day.

The scheme organisers are grateful to members for responding to surveys regarding these changes and their willingness to try something different. Since the last SAC LV was run as before with a virtual discussion in the annual update day. Circulation LW was run as a pilot – cases were scored and discussed in a virtual meeting 24th June 2021 but will not be used for ranking/generation of action points, to test the dropdown menu format. Members were surveyed before and after this circulation. LX closes Friday 30th October 2021.

There has been interest from members in joining the EQA steering committee (part of the quality subcommittee of the UKLPG) who collate responses and draw up scoring criteria, selected decisions are put the members for a vote at meetings.

Cases giving rise to disparate responses are used as the basis of topics for subsequent CPD meetings.

5. Datasets and ICCR

- RCPATH Dataset for histopathological reporting of liver resection specimens (including gallbladder) and liver biopsies for primary and metastatic carcinoma, 3rd edition. Submitted to College September 2020. Still with the College as of October 2021.
- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies for the investigation of medical disease and focal lesions, 3rd edition. Published October 2020.
- ICCR Liver Dataset, 2nd edition. Published November 2020.

6. Other Matters

Information concerning the constitution of the UKLPG, minutes of the UKLPG committee meetings, details of the Liver EQA Scheme and various postgraduate teaching materials can all be viewed via the UKLPG page in the Leeds Virtual Pathology website:

http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/liver_group.php

*Dr Rachel M Brown (Chair) & Dr JI Wyatt (Secretary) on behalf of the UK Liver Pathology Group
27/10/2021*