

EASL SCHOOL OF HEPATOLOGY

INTERPRETATION OF LIVER BIOPSIES FOR YOUNG HEPATOLOGISTS

Organizers: Dr Alba Díaz and Dr Xavier Forns. Pathology Department and Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. University of Barcelona.

Summary

A few decades ago it was common that experienced hepatologists had a major role in the interpretation of liver biopsy findings; in some cases the liver pathologist was indeed a clinician. The combination of clinical expertise and knowledge in pathology was considered very valuable. Nevertheless, the super-specialization of medicine and the incorporation of new (and more complex) diagnostic techniques in pathology has diminished the role of the liver disease specialist in the interpretation of liver biopsies. Pathologists are currently in charge of liver biopsy diagnosis. It is still very important, however, to discuss each case with the clinicians who are in charge of the patient. It is not uncommon that the findings in a liver biopsy may correspond to a wide spectrum of diseases. In such cases, a good clinical history, relevant laboratory results and imaging data may be crucial to narrow the diagnostic possibilities. The discussion between clinicians and pathologists is thus crucial to reach a diagnosis.

Differently from other Schools of Hepatology, our goal is to present “syndromic” situations and not particular diseases, which is what the clinical hepatologists will encounter in their clinical practice. The clinician will face a patient with cholestasis, a patient with an acute liver failure or a oncological patient with abnormal liver tests.

Learning objectives

- To help clinical hepatologists to interpret a liver biopsy, by reviewing the most frequent situations in which a liver biopsy is indicated.

Target audience

- Young hepatologists with interest in learning how to interpret liver biopsies

Top 3 reasons to attend

- The very practical orientation of the school, which is based on real cases diagnosed at our Liver Unit
- The presence of a group of experts covering the full range of situations in which a liver biopsy is indicated
- The variety of selected topics, that cover most aspects of liver diseases

Faculty list:

- **Alba Díaz**. Pathology Department. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Xavier Forns** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Carla Montironi** Pathology Department. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Carla Fuster** Pathology Department. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Maria Teresa Salcedo** Pathology Department. Hospital Vall d'Hebrón. Barcelona
- **María Londoño** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Enric Reverter** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Gonzalo Crespo** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Virginia Hernández-Gea** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Ramon Bataller** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Zoe Mariño** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Marco Sanduzzi** Liver Unit. Hospital Clínic. Barcelona
- **Dina Tiniakos** Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK - Aretaieion Hospital National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Detailed programme:

DAY 1 – Friday 12 April 2024		
09:00-09:15	Introduction	Alba Díaz, Xavier Forns
09:15-10:00	When to indicate a liver biopsy? Formal presentation and group discussion	Xavier Forns
10:00-11:00	Elemental lesions and pattern approach in a liver biopsy Formal presentation and group discussion	Alba Díaz
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-13:30	Clinical cases: review of elemental lesions and patterns Two groups of 10*. Hands on (digitalized images) Group 1: Alba Díaz Group 2: Carla Fuster	Alba Díaz, Carla Fuster
13:30-15:00	Lunch	
15:00-17:00	Interactive clinical cases 1 Two groups of 10. Hands on (digitalized images) Patient with persistent cholestasis (Reference pathologist C Montironi, reference hepatologist M Londoño) Patient with acute liver failure (Reference pathologist A Díaz, reference hepatologist E Reverter)	A Díaz, M Londoño, C Montironi, E Reverter
17:00-17:30	Coffee break	
17:30-19:30	Interactive clinical cases 2 Two groups of 10. Hands on (digitalized images) Patient with fever of unknown origin (Reference pathologist A Díaz, reference hepatologist G Crespo) Hematological patient with abnormal liver tests (Reference pathologist C Montironi, reference hepatologist Virginia Hernández-Gea)	G Crespo, A Díaz, V Hernández-Gea, C Montironi,

DAY 2 – Saturday 13 April 2024

Common situations with difficult differential diagnosis

09:00-09:45	Autoimmune hepatitis or DILI? Reference pathologist D Tiniakos, reference hepatologist M Londoño	D Tiniakos, M Londoño
09:45-10:30	ASH or NASH? Reference pathologist MT Salcedo, reference hepatologist R Bataller	R Bataller, MT Salcedo
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:45	Liver biopsy in genetic liver diseases? Reference pathologist C Montironi, reference hepatologist Z Mariño	Z Mariño, C Montironi
11:45-12:30	Liver nodules: the Quotidian & the Unexpected. Reference pathologist A Díaz, reference hepatologist M Sanduzzi	A Díaz, M Sanduzzi
12:30-14:00	Final Quiz Presentation of 10 clinical cases with a voting system summarizing the School	A Díaz and X Forns
14:00-14:15	Closing remarks	A Díaz, X Forns
14:15	Lunch take-away	