

Module 1: Updates in Hepatitis

Dr. Ng

1. When would you begin treatment in a patient with normal LFTs but strong positivity of SMA, ANA and significantly increased total protein?
 - a. This is case specific and should be decided based on histologic findings on liver biopsy, increase in total IgG, parental consensus etc. If IgG levels are significantly elevated and findings consistent with AIH would recommend treatment.
2. How long should you treat autoimmune hepatitis once the LFTs have been normal?
 - a. Treat at least for 1 year.
3. What to do in patients on 6-MP/Azathioprine who have pancytopenia/aplasia?
 - a. Decrease Azathioprine dose, consider adding MMF and monitor closely for BM recovery. (note: MMF can also have bone marrow toxicity).
4. When do you obtain anti-LC1 antibodies?
 - a. If the conventional AIH panel is negative, obtaining anti-LC-1 antibodies should be considered.

Dr. Molleston

1. Do you check for Hep D co-infection in hepatitis B breakthrough cases?
 - a. Yes
2. What is your approach for Hep B breakthrough cases?
 - a. Evaluate for mutations, discontinue previous antiretroviral drug.
3. What is the significant of non-responders to HepB vaccination? Do you give them a Booster (1 dose vs. repeat entire series)
 - a. Antibodies wane over time and patients will still have memory B-cells. In cases where antibody levels are undetectable, giving a booster can be considered.

Dr. Gonzalez-Peralta

1. How do you interpret positive AIH panel in patients with hepatitis C?
 - a. A positive AIH panel in a hepatitis C positive patient is difficult to interpret since auto-antibodies are commonly seen in hepatitis C patients (particularly anti-LKM). In such cases, a liver biopsy is of most importance.
2. In stable hepatitis C infected patients with minimal fibrosis, should you wait to treat until they are adults?
 - a. It is a reasonable approach to wait to treat, however children may be better candidates for treatment than adults since they lack usual adult co-morbidities and parents may facilitate compliance.