

PORTAL HYPERTENSION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG): ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

This annual report covers the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.

Membership

The BASL Committee appointed an initial SIG Lead to serve for one year, Dr. Dhiraj Tripathi, Consultant Hepatologist and Liver Transplant Physician, University Hospitals Birmingham. An election for the position of SIG lead will be held in 2019-20. The SIG has a Steering Committee, comprising the Lead and 10 other members, including a trainee and patient representative.

At the time of writing this report, there are 195 individuals included in the member database, which is an increase from 73 members when the SIG was formed in September 2018. 160 (82%) are BASL members and 35 (18%) are non-members.

Meetings

One meeting of the SIG was held during 2018-19 - 1 May 2019, Birmingham, 40 participants with £1,000 sponsorship each from Gore and Sequana Medical. The next meeting is planned for November 2019.

Key achievements

1. Promoting active research studies

The Chief Investigators of NIHR HTA funded trials CALIBRE, BOPPP and ASEPTIC gave presentations at the first SIG meeting. There was much interaction and a spirit of collaboration. The target recruitment for these trials is over 4000, making them the largest trials in liver cirrhosis. A CALIBRE/BOPPP symposium will take place at the BASL Annual Meeting to promote these complementary studies and provide an update to delegates.

2. Facilitating research in development

The annual SIG meeting hosted presentations of research in development, including sub-studies of CALIBRE, Liver HOPE, relaxin and biomarkers in AKI/HRS. It is hoped that the active interaction will facilitate grant applications.

3. Guideline development

Dr Tripathi and Dr Patch are leading BSG Guidelines on TIPSS. BASL has agreed to review and hopefully endorse these guidelines. BSG Guidelines on ascites are also in development. A summary of progress with both these guidelines was presented at the SIG meeting.

4. Service development

At the SIG meeting the current TIPSS service was discussed and an interventional radiologist provided some advice on units wishing to set up a TIPSS service. There was also discussion about the challenges in setting up an early TIPSS service, and some uncertainty about patient selection and efficacy. A key recommendation was a national TIPSS registry.

Further information

Please visit the SIG webpage at <https://www.basl.org.uk/index.cfm/content/page/cid/37>.