

Supplementary Table 1: Comparison of patients attending District General Hospitals (DGH's) compared to those attending University Hospitals (UH's)*

Parameter	DGH's n=437	UH's n=830	p value
Delay between first abnormal LFTs to diagnosis (mo)±SD	9.5±17	8.6±17	ns
Delay diagnosis to start of treatment (mo)±SD	1.6±7	1.6±8	ns
Delay in starting SSA (mo)±SD	0.41±0.9	0.27±0.68	0.006
Received steroids: N (%)	393/437 (90)	779/830 (94)	0.011
Initial dose of Prednisolone (mg/day) ±SD	32.1±10	31.7±13	ns
Initial steroid Budesonide: N (%)	11/391 (3)	47/778 (6)	0.016
Mean serum ALT (IU/L) ±SD at start of treatment	336±477	461±496	<0.001
And after 28 days	113±184	100±139	ns
3 months	100±181	65±104	0.004
6 months	62±134	55±123	ns
12 months	55±252	46±89	ns
Serum ALT % change at 28 days (n)	-20±146	-63±47	<0.0001
3 months (n)	-35±108	-65±72	<0.001
6 months (n)	-37±169	-71±45	0.002
12 months (n)	-23±500	-74±30	0.02
% with normal ALT at 28 days (n)	20	62	0.007
3 months (n)	5	68	0.001
6 months (n)	36	70	0.002
12 months (n)	55	63	0.03
% with at least one normal ALT within 12 months	67	74	0.047

*Essentially identical results were obtained when patients not receiving steroids were excluded from analysis

Supplementary Table 2: Standards in University hospitals (n=830 cases) versus District General Hospitals (n=437 cases)

Standard	UH's n (%)	Standard met	DGH's n (%)	Standard met	p value
a) ≥90% of symptomatic patients start prednisolone [~] within 4 months of diagnosis	540/593 (95)	✓	258/284 (91)	✓	0.9
b) ≥90% Steroids continued ≥1 year*	495/658 (75)	✗	250/341 (73)	✗	0.51
c) ≥80% adequate blood monitoring ⁺⁺	560/744 (75)	✗	280/389 (72)	✗	0.23
d) ≥90% attain normal serum ALT at 1 year treatment ^{**}	598/716 (84)	✗	281/360 (78)	✗	0.02
e) ≥80% clinically decompensated patients [‡] who did not improve on treatment were discussed with a transplant team	103/108 (95)	✓	40/42 (95)	✓	0.97
f) ≥60% of those re-biopsied attain histological remission ^{***}	69/195 (35)	✗	34/74 (46)	✗	0.11
g) ≥75% do not develop de-novo cirrhosis	571/617 (93)	✓	308/334 (92)	✓	0.89
h) ≤21% new clinical decompensation	32/754 (4)	✓	10/405 (2.5)	✓	0.12

[~]or equivalent (Budesonide/methylprednisolone/hydrocortisone) as proportion of symptomatic patients.

*In those followed up ≥1 year. [†]Liver Blood tests documented at 3, 6 & 12 months adjusted for length of follow-up. **In those with ≥12months follow up after treatment started & date of first normal ALT is known.

***Necroinflammatory score available in 195 (of 247) UH and 74 (of 86) DGH of follow-up biopsies respectively.

Supplementary Table 3: Centres with specialist nurses seeing patients (n=5) versus those attending centres without (n=23).

	Sp Nurse sees pts n=400 n (%)	Standard met	No Sp nurse seeing pts n=1148 n (%)	Standard met	p value
a) ≥90% of symptomatic patients start prednisolone [~] within 4 months of diagnosis	275/291 (95)	✓	543/586 (93)	✓	0.3
b) ≥90% Steroids continued ≥1 year*	239/293 (82)	✗	506/706 (72)	✗	0.001
c) ≥80% adequate blood monitoring ⁺⁺	239/347 (69)	✗	601/786 (76)	✗	0.007
d) ≥90% attain normal serum ALT at 1 year treatment ^{***}	270/331 (82)	✗	609/745 (82)	✗	0.94
e) ≥80% clinically decompensated patients [‡] who did not improve on treatment were discussed with a transplant team	45/48 (94)	✓	96/102 (94)	✓	0.93
f) ≥60% of those re-biopsied attain histological remission	49/123 (40)	✗	54/148 (36)	✗	0.6
g) ≥75% do not develop de-novo cirrhosis	279/303 (92)	✓	881/929 (95)	✓	0.08
h) ≤21% new clinical decompensation	14/366 (4)	✓	28/1074 (3)	✓	0.23

[~]or equivalent (Budesonide/methylprednisolone/hydrocortisone) as proportion of symptomatic patients.

*In those followed up ≥1 year.

⁺⁺Liver Blood tests documented at 3 months, 6 months & 12 months adjusted for length of follow-up.

^{***}In those with ≥12months follow up after treatment started & date of first normal ALT is known.

Supplementary Table 4: Centres with a Hepatologist (n=20) versus those without a Hepatologist (n=8).

	Hepatologist n=1033 patients n (%)	Standard met	No Hepatologist n=234 patients n (%)	Standard met	p value
a) ≥90% of symptomatic patients start prednisolone [~] within 4 months of diagnosis	675/722 (93)	✓	143/155 (92)	✓	0.58
b) ≥90% Steroids continued ≥1 year*	612/819 (75)	✗	133/180 (74)	✗	0.81
c) ≥80% adequate blood monitoring ⁺⁺	694/920 (75)	✗	146/213 (69)	✗	0.04
d) ≥90% attain normal serum ALT at 1 year treatment ^{***}	744/899 (83)	✗	135/177 (76)	✗	0.04
e) ≥80% clinically decompensated patients [‡] who did not improve on treatment were discussed with a transplant team	122/130 (94)	✓	19/20 (95)	✓	0.84
f) ≥60% of those re-biopsied attain histological remission	78/230 (34)	✗	25/53 (47)	✗	0.07
g) ≥75% do not develop de-novo cirrhosis	701/763 (92)	✓	178/188 (95)	✓	0.19
h) ≤21% new clinical decompensation	35/938 (4)	✓	7/221 (3)	✓	0.69

[~]or equivalent (Budesonide/methylprednisolone/hydrocortisone) as proportion of symptomatic patients.

*In those followed up ≥1 year.

⁺⁺Liver Blood tests documented at 3 months, 6 months & 12 months adjusted for length of follow-up.

^{***}In those with ≥12months follow up after treatment started & date of first normal ALT is known.

Supplementary Figure 1: All cause death/transplant rate in patients attending DGH's compared to UH's

