

A review of Primary Biliary Cholangitis practice in Wales : Time for specialist care

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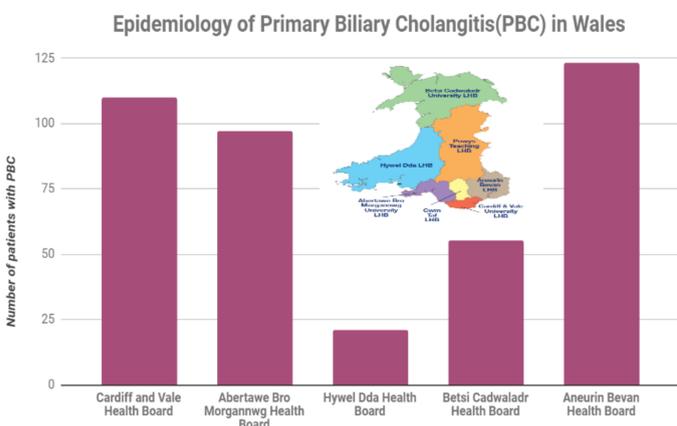


Background and aims

- Primary biliary cholangitis(PBC) is an important yet under diagnosed condition which causes significant impact on patients both symptomatically and through progression to end stage liver disease.
- Therapeutic advances in PBC make assessment of UDCA treatment response critically important[1-3].
- We studied the clinical practice around PBC in Wales which has a population over 3 million people with rural/urban diversity.
- Clinical services reflect that diversity with small district hospitals and larger, liver units.

Methods

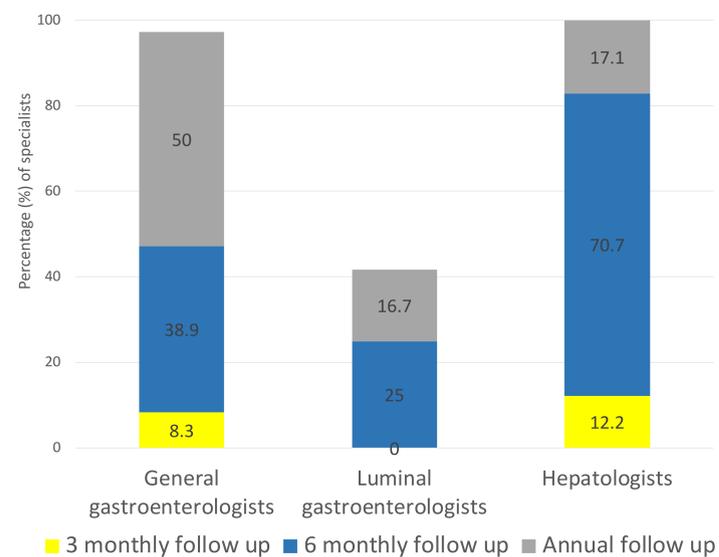
- We developed a clinical audit tool with UK-PBC and EASL guidelines.
- Data was retrospectively collected by specialist trainees in each health board, including differences in adherence to standards between clinicians.



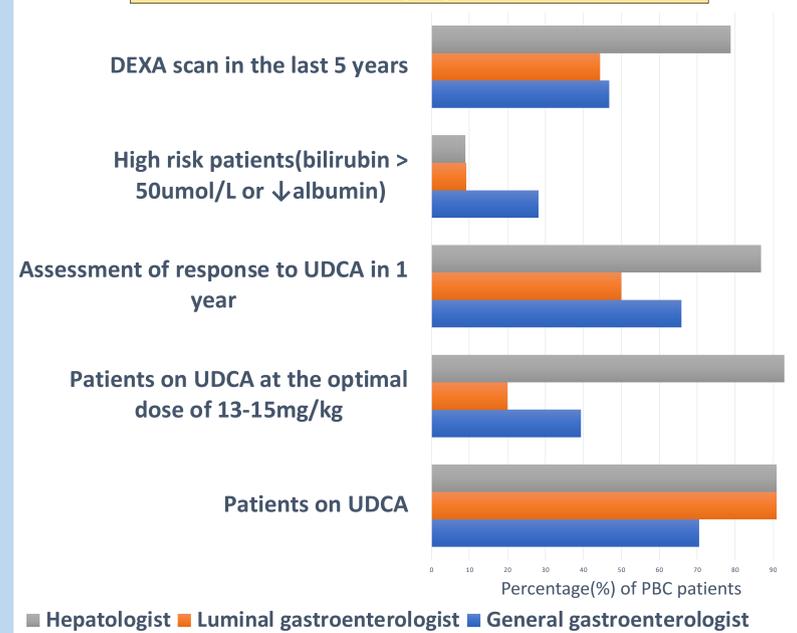
Results

- A total of 406 patients, mean age 59.7 years \pm 13.5, (73% female) were identified.
- 88.5% had positive AMA >1/40 at the time of diagnosis
- 26.2% had liver biopsy and likely to be requested by a hepatologist(51.4% Vs 25%) $p=0.039 \chi^2$
- 47.8% had cirrhosis of which 54.3% had screening for HCC and requested mostly by hepatologists (84%).
- Surveillance for varices occurred in 38% patients and 9% had varices.
- Out of 26 patients considered for a liver transplant, 12(2.9%) underwent orthoptic liver transplantation.

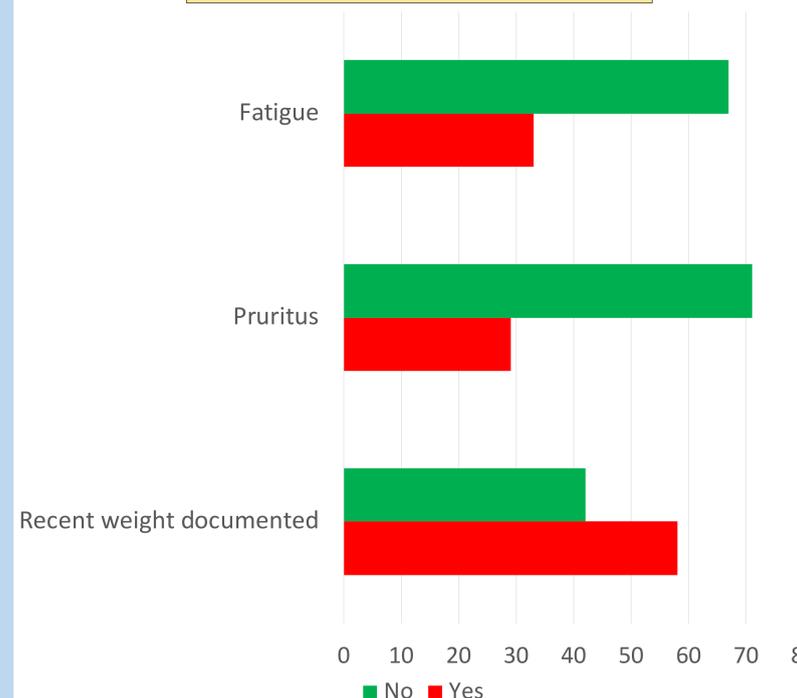
Follow up of PBC patients among the specialists



Comparison between the differing clinicians managing PBC



Symptom enquiry during follow up



Conclusion

- This study provides a unique insight into current services for PBC patients across Wales.
- There were significant discrepancies in adherence to standards between hepatology and gastroenterology managed patients.
- Patients managed by hepatology were more likely to receive optimal UDCA dosing and have response documented at 1 year.
- This study has uncovered areas requiring improvement like documentation of fatigue and pruritis.
- These findings will be used to review the PBC care pathway in Wales to improve adherence to standards and access to new therapies

References

- European association for the study of the liver. EASL clinical practice guidelines ; Management of cholestatic liver diseases J Hepatol 2009;51:237.
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