



Despite being a rare clinical entity, acute liver failure (ALF) management raises, worldwide, a major concern due to its quick installation, general and specific approaches, related complications (namely coagulopathy and hepatic encephalopathy), patient allocation and the decision whether transplant or not.

The first approach of the patient with ALF is made in any hospital facilities and so, all the physicians that work in the emergency department must be able to recognize this entity and to start some general and specific treatments (for example, N-acetylcysteine for paracetamol related ALF), as well as when to refer to specialized centers with liver transplant facilities, where severe cases must be quickly referenced and dealt.

In Portugal, there are three liver transplant centers: in Porto (Centro Hospitalar do Porto – Hospital Santo António), Coimbra (Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Coimbra) and in Lisbon (Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Central – Curry Cabral), where this severe patients are dealt with multidisciplinary teams, namely hepatologists, surgeons, intensivists, anesthesiologists, psychiatrists, well trained nurses, etc.

In order to make a point of situation concerning the approach of ALF in Portugal, ACIM (Associação de

Cuidados Intermédios Médicos/ Intermediate Medical Care Association), together with ASCI (Associação de Cuidados Intensivos/ Intensive Care Association) and UTHP (Unidade de Transplante Hepato-Pancreática/ Hepatic Pancreatic Transplantation Unit of Centro Hospitalar do Porto), and with the scientific support of APEF (Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo do Fígado/ Portuguese Association for the Study of the Liver) promoted the realization of this first monothematic conference “Acute Liver Failure”, framed in a cycle of specific meetings “Current Topics in Intermediate and Intensive Care”, and invited national and international well known speakers that work and are experts on this field.

We sincerely hope that this meeting will, somehow, bring news, raise questions, and promotes the inter-institutional relationship, in order to raise the quality of general knowledge and clinical care to ALF patients.

Be very welcome,

Filipe Nery

On behalf of the Acute Liver Failure – Monothematic Conference organization team



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