

SPECIAL TOPIC

Complications of cirrhosis and portal hypertension: Pathophysiology and management

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CURRICULUM VITAE



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Present Position:

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Postgraduate training in Gastroenterology

Department of Gastroenterology, Central Middlesex

Hospital; Endoscopic Unit, St Marks Hospital; Liver Unit, Royal Free Hospital; London, UK 1979 -1981.

Medical Thesis from University of Athens

Paralipoproteinemia in multiple myeloma

Activities

Ex- president of the Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology and member of several national and international Medical Societies including the American Gastroenterological Association, the British Society of Gastroenterology, the European Association of the Study of the Liver. Member of the editorial board of various national and international Journals.

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Main Scientific Interest

Portal hypertension, Peptic Ulcer Bleeding, Therapeutic Endoscopy

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INTRODUCTION

Portal hypertension represents one of the most challenging problems in modern Gastroenterology. The development of esophageal varices and ascites represent is the main and most serious complication of portal hypertension and is a leading cause of death in the cirrhotic patient. The knowledge of the mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of portal hypertension and of its main consequences has progressed remarkably in recent years. On the diagnostic side, endoscopy, haemodynamic studies and imaging techniques have greatly expanded our ability to study the liver and portal circulation. On the therapeutic side, the introduction of vasoactive drugs and the application of various endoscopic techniques have changed dramatically the management of these patients and have modified the natural course of the disease.

This issue of our journal is intended to provide an

overview of the pathogenesis and current management of two of the most serious complications of the cirrhotic patients with portal hypertension: variceal bleeding and ascites.

In organizing this issue I attempted to include and review most of the areas that have experienced major innovations and to present the new pathogenic concepts together with applications in clinical practice. I have been very fortunate in being able to include among the authors some of the experts responsible for most of the major achievements in this field. I hope that the papers will serve to stimulate research in this important area of Hepatology, and lead to an improvement in our understanding and management of these unfortunate patients.

Alec Avgerinos, MD

Guest Editor

Special topic by Alex Avgerinos