



## Primary biliary cirrhosis: proposal for a new simple histological scoring system

Submitted by Marie-Christine... on Tue, 06/23/2015 - 20:21

Titre	Primary biliary cirrhosis: proposal for a new simple histological scoring system
Type de publication	Article de revue
Auteur	Wendum, Dominique [1], Boëlle, Pierre-Yves [2], Bedossa, Pierre [3], Zafrani, Elie-Serge [4], Charlotte, Frédéric [5], Saint-Paul, Marie-Christine [6], Michalak, Sophie [7], Chazouillères, Olivier [8], Corpechot, Christophe [9]
Editeur	Wiley
Type	Article scientifique dans une revue à comité de lecture
Année	2015
Langue	Anglais
Date	Jan-02-2015
Numéro	2
Pagination	652-9
Volume	35
Titre de la revue	Liver International
ISSN	1478-3223

### Background & Aims

A simple and reproducible evaluation of non diagnostic histological lesions related to prognosis remains crucial in primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC). Presently there is no satisfactory simple scoring system analysing them reliably. We elaborated a semi-quantitative scoring system that assesses fibrosis, lymphocytic interface hepatitis (LIH) and ductopenia, separately. This study was aimed to evaluate its intra/interobserver reproducibility and its correlation with the main biochemical data.

### Methods

Liver biopsies from 33 consecutive newly diagnosed PBC patients were independently analysed by five liver pathologists. Fibrosis was classified into five stages (portal/periportal fibrosis/few septa/numerous septa/cirrhosis) and LIH into four grades. The bile duct ratio (BDR), i.e. ratio of the number of portal tracts with ducts to total number of portal tracts, Ludwig's and Scheuer's stages were evaluated. Intra and interobserver agreements were assessed. Histological results were correlated to the biochemical data.

### Results

Most patients had an early disease on clinical and biological parameters. The biopsies measured 23 mm on average (range 12 - 40 mm). Intraobserver reproducibility was substantial for fibrosis ( $\kappa = 0.68$ ), LIH ( $\kappa = 0.69$ ) and BDR (ICC = 0.69). Interobserver agreement for fibrosis was fair with the 5-class system ( $\kappa = 0.36$ ), moderate with a 4-class system ( $\kappa = 0.56$ ). moderate for LIH ( $\kappa = 0.59$ ) and BDR (ICC = 0.50). Ludwig's and Scheuer's staging showed a fair interobserver agreement ( $\kappa = 0.32$ ,  $\kappa = 0.31$  respectively). Our system showed better correlations with biochemistry than Ludwig's and Scheuer's systems did.

### Conclusions

This simple scoring system, assessing fibrosis, LIH and BDR separately, has a substantial intraobserver and a moderate interobserver reproducibility. Its prognostic relevance has to be evaluated.

Résumé en anglais

URL de la notice

<http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua12874> [10]

DOI

10.1111/liv.12620 [11]

Titre abrégé

Liver Int

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### Liens

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- [11] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/liv.12620>

Publié sur *Okina* (<http://okina.univ-angers.fr>)