

The role of different EASL-papers: Clinical practice guidelines vs. position papers vs. conference summaries

Heiner Wedemeyer EASL Secretary General,
Mark Thursz EASL Vice Secretary

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In this month's issue of the Journal of Hepatology, you will find a paper entitled "A Position Statement on NAFLD/NASH based on the EASL 2009 Special Conference". The EASL Governing Board acknowledges the outstanding and timely work of the authors Vlad Ratziu, Stefano Bellentani, Helena Cortez-Pinto, Chris Day, and Giulio Marchesini. We are convinced that this is a very important paper that not only summarizes the current knowledge on fatty liver disease but also defines key areas for future research.

Prompted by the proposal for this position paper, the Governing Board has re-defined the different types of EASL-endorsed papers and the role Clinical Practice Guidelines, Position Papers, and Conference Reports.

EASL clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)

CPGs give clear recommendations for the management and treatment of a specific disease which are based on the GRADE system. The EASL Governing Board nominates a group of experts to write a draft version of these guidelines which will be reviewed by the Governing board and by external independent experts in the field. As the CPGs are widely used to establish standards in clinical practice, EASL has chosen to take full responsibility for the CPGs. CPGs are published without naming authors, but contributors, including reviewers, are named at the end of the paper. The

final decision about publication is made by the EASL Governing Board.

Position papers (PPs)

PPs should be based on results from a conference that has been organized by EASL or that was endorsed by EASL. PPs are published by the authors who are describing individual opinions; EASL does not take responsibility for the content of PPs. PPs should summarize the state of the art in the field and may define important areas for future research. Treatment/management recommendations should be given with caution; the GRADE system should not be applied as this system is only used by EASL CPGs. The EASL Governing board will be involved in reviewing PPs and can endorse the publication if requested. The final decision about publication is made by the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hepatology.

Conference summaries (CS)

CSs are review papers which are invited and handled by the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hepatology. The EASL Governing Board is not involved.

E-mail address: wedemeyer.heiner@mh-hannover.de (H. Wedeme)



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