Preface

Alcoholic Liver Disease

Alcoholic liver disease (ALD) remains a major health issue with significant physical, psychological, and financial effects. The disease can present with a range of hepatic manifestations, including alcoholic fatty liver disease, acute alcoholic hepatitis (AH), and alcoholic cirrhosis. In this issue of *Clinics in Liver Disease*, it has been my privilege as Guest Editor to work with a distinguished group of authors to explore a wide range of topics on this subject.

Drs Chacko and Reinus set the stage for this issue with an overview of the spectrum of ALD. Recognizing at-risk drinking and alcoholism can be very difficult; Drs Holt and Tetrault give a comprehensive review on all aspects of unhealthy alcohol use. Drs Dunn and Shah then provide an excellent overview on the pathogenesis of ALD. Drs Childers and Ahn provide a thorough review on the diagnosis of ALD, with a focus on clinical aspects, lab parameters, and biopsy results. To further review the pathology and liver biopsy aspects of ALD, Drs Alpert and Hart provide a pathologist’s perspective on ALD.

This issue then moves on to the clinical syndrome of AH. This topic is given a significant amount of articles due to its high mortality and significant clinical impact. Dr Gholam outlines the various prognostic scoring models utilized for AH. Drs Dugum and McCullough then provide a thorough review of the clinical aspects of AH. Given the high mortality associated with severe AH, Drs Phillips and Lucey provide us with an overview of the treatment options for AH. Then, Drs Gallegos-Orozco and Charlton cover the controversial topic of liver transplantation for ALD and AH.

Malnutrition can be considered one of the most frequent (and overlooked) complications associated with ALD. Dr Dasarathy provides a very thorough review of this topic.

As medical care improves and alcoholic patients live longer, we need an approach to caring for these patients. Drs Allampati and Mullen provide a review on the long-term management of patients with ALD. Advanced liver disease and cirrhosis account for the majority of cases of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in the United States. However, there has been some debate about whether ALD is a significant predisposing risk factor for HCC.
factor for HCC. Drs Joshi, Kohli, Manch, and Gish review this topic. While it is clear that alcohol can cause liver disease directly, there is less written on the effects of alcohol on other chronic liver diseases. Drs Hsu and Kowdley cover this subject with a focus on the effects of alcohol on patients with fatty liver disease, chronic viral hepatitis, and hemochromatosis. Finally, Drs Chan and Levitsky provide a review on the topic of infection in patients with ALD.

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