



29 May 2013

NORGINE AND ALFA WASSERMANN SpA PARTNER WITH THE EUROPEAN MEDICAL JOURNAL TO ISSUE A LEADING EASL CONGRESS REVIEW REPORT ON HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY (HE)

Professor D. Häussinger Clinic for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infectious Diseases Liver Center Düsseldorf, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf discusses a new pathophysiological concept for HE, new diagnostic methods, new aspects of sociomedical relevance and new treatment options available to treat HE.

Dr Peter Jepsen, Departments of Hepatology and Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark examines HE epidemiology and how HE can affect a patient's life and concludes that HE is a continuum; in its overt form it is associated with a very high mortality with an expected survival time of approximately 6 months and with a high incidence post cirrhosis diagnosis; a better understanding of risk factors for HE development and recurrence is important.

Rajiv Jalan, UCL Institute for Liver and Digestive Health, Royal Free Hospital, London, UK reviews strategies to improve the diagnosis and management of hepatic encephalopathy. There is a new focus on HE with more treatment options coming and better understanding pathogenesis that will enable improved classification.

Professor Fred Poordad MD, Professor of Medicine, VP, Academic and Clinical Affairs, The Texas Liver Institute, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas, discusses prevention of recurrence of overt hepatic encephalopathy and highlights that there are limited therapeutic options for HE, but the new broad spectrum, non-absorbed antibiotic therapy, rifaximin α which is well tolerated, is effective and suitable for long term use. He also mentions that new therapeutic options will focus on enhancing survival in advanced liver disease.

EASL is the leading liver association in Europe. It attracts the foremost hepatology experts as members and has an impressive track record in promoting research in liver disease, supporting wider education, and promoting changes in European liver policy.

Norgine is committed to improving the lives of patients with hepatic encephalopathy and has provided an educational grant for the development of a medical educational programme 'New Insights into HE'. For more information, visit <http://www.hepaticencephalopathy.info>.

Ends

PR2013May29.01

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Notes to editors

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About the European Medical Journal

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