

PRO-EURO
DILI NETWORK
Prospective European Drug-induced Liver Injury Network

Drug-induced liver injury: general concepts, interpretation of liver tests and common mistakes

RAUL J ANDRADE

**1st TRAINING COURSE, ACTION COST 17-112 PRO EURO DILI NET
Málaga, 15th March, 2019**



ibima

Instituto de Investigación
Biomédica de Málaga



PANISH DILI REGISTRY

Drug-induced liver injury

“Adverse drug reaction manifesting in liver damage following intake of prescription drugs, over-the-counter treatments, herbals or dietary supplements”



Intrinsic: dose-dependent, predictable reaction, e.g. acetaminophen (APAP) overdose

Idiosyncratic: unpredictable based on drug dose and pharmacological properties

Major threat to patients, substantial burden for drug development

Reasons for withdrawals

Reason	Percentage
Hematologic	20%
Drug interaction	15%
Hepatic	15%
Neurologic	10%
Psychiatric	5%
Renal	5%
Abuse	5%
Carcinogenic	5%
Cardiovascular	5%
Dermatologic	5%

Drug Info J 2001; 35:293

Blackbox warnings

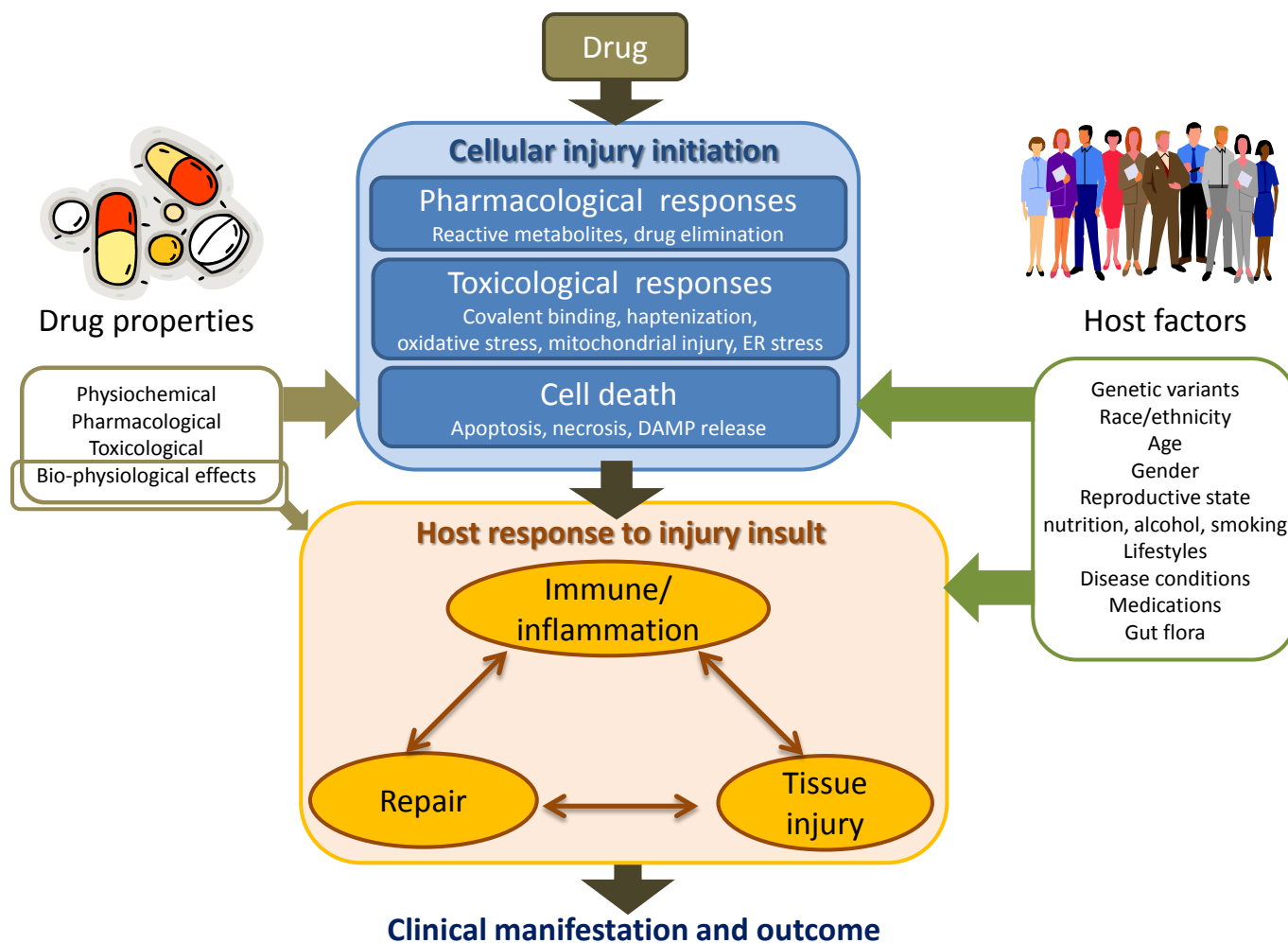
Timeline of drug withdrawals:

- 1959: Iproniazid
- 1962: Thalidomide
- 1967: Oxyphenisatin
- 1970: Ibufenac
- 1982: Benoxaprofen, Ticrynafen
- 1984: Methaqualon
- 1985: Perhexiline
- 1991: Triazolam
- 1996: Alpidem
- 1997: Fenfluramine, Tolcapone, Tolrestat
- 1998: Bromfenac
- 1999: Terfenadine
- 2000: Troglitazone, Amineptine
- 2001: Trovafloxacin, Cerivastatin
- 2003: Nefazodone
- 2004: Rofecoxib
- 2005: Pemoline
- 2006: Ximelagatran
- 2007: Lumiracoxib

- 



Idiosyncratic DILI: the interplay between drug and host factors



Chen, Suzuki, Borlak, Andrade, Lucena. *J Hepatol* 2015 ;63:503–514

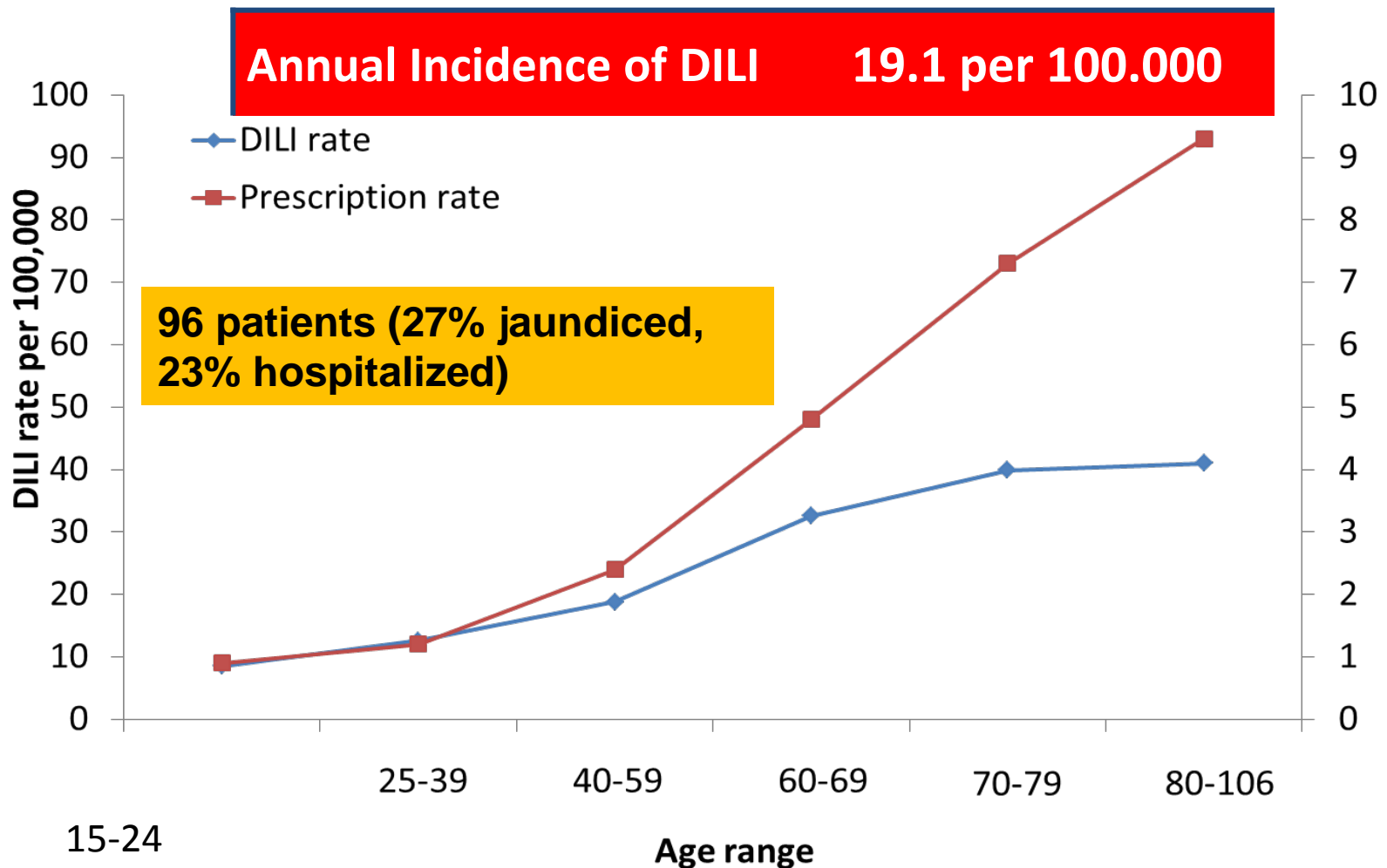
Idiosyncratic drug-induced liver injury



■ Population-based studies

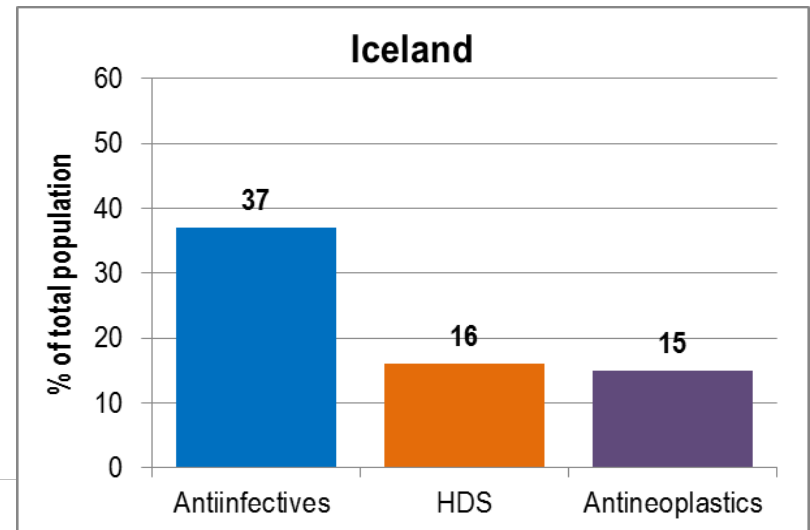
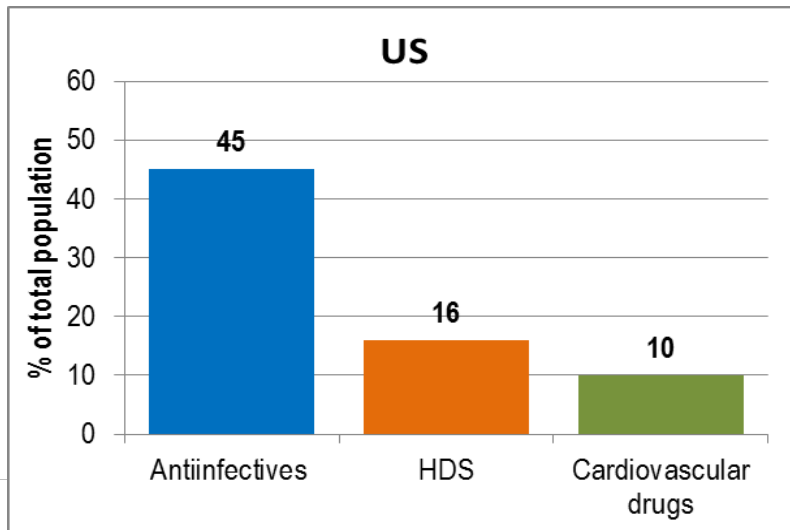
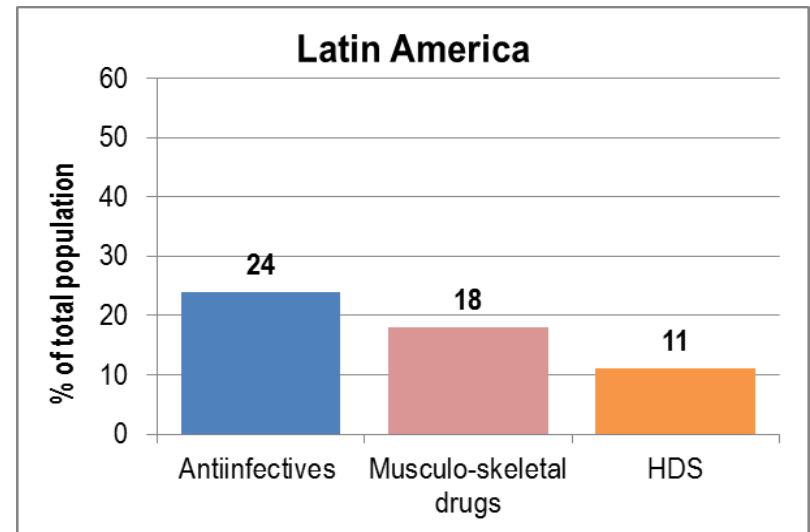
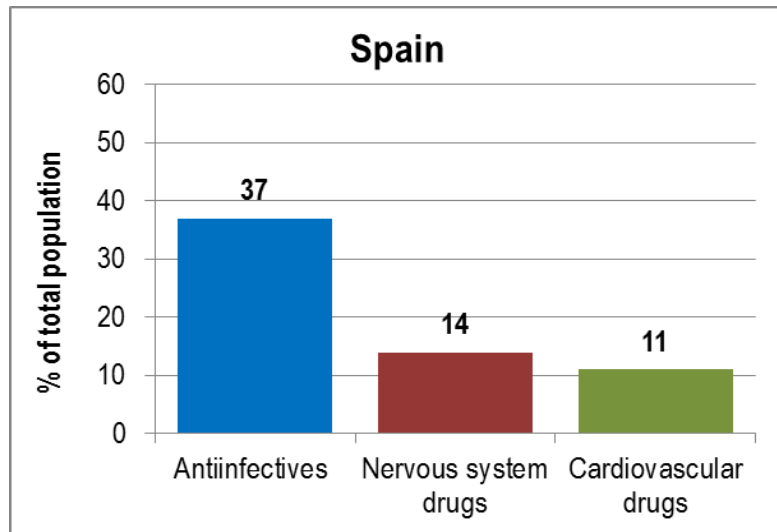
- France: 13.9 cases/100,000 inhabitants/year (*Sgro et al., 2002*)
- Iceland: 19.1 cases/100,000 inhabitants/year (*Björnsson et al 2013*)
- Delaware: 2.7 cases/100.000 inhabitants/year (*Vega et al Drug Saf 2017*)

Epidemiology of Drug-induced Liver injury in Iceland n=251,860



Björnsson et al Gastroenterology 2013; 144(7):1419-1425

Most common causative drug classes in large DILI populations





LiverTox

Clinical and Research Information on Drug-Induced Liver Injury

[Home](#) | [NIDDK](#) | [NLM](#) | [SIS Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#)

[Home](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Clinical Course](#)

[Phenotypes](#)

[Immune Features](#)

[Clinical Outcomes](#)

[Causality](#)

[Severity Grading](#)

[Likelihood Scale](#)

[Classes of Drugs](#)

[Submit a Case
Report](#)

[Clinical Alerts/News](#)

[Conference
Proceedings](#)

[Information
Resources](#)

[Glossary](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

SEARCH THE LIVERTOX DATABASE

**Search for a specific medication,
herbal or supplement:**

Search

**Browse by first letter of medication,
herbal or supplement:**

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

LIVERTOX provides up-to-date, accurate, and easily accessed information on the diagnosis, cause, frequency, patterns, and management of liver injury attributable to prescription and nonprescription medications, herbals and dietary supplements. LIVERTOX also includes a case registry that will enable scientific analysis and better characterization of the clinical patterns of liver injury. The LIVERTOX website provides a comprehensive resource for physicians and their patients, and for clinical academicians and researchers who specialize in idiosyncratic drug induced [hepatotoxicity](#).

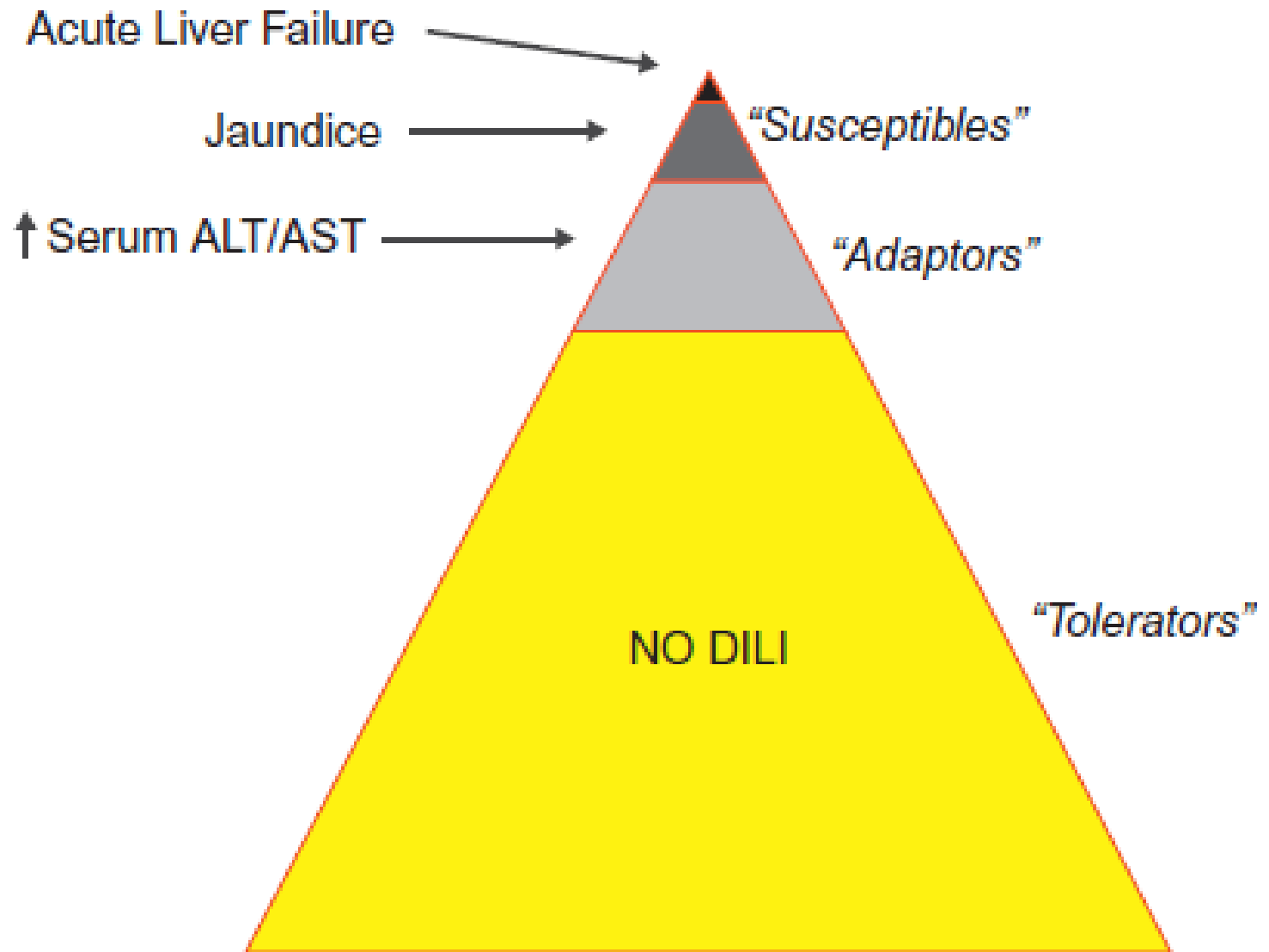
LIVERTOX content produced by the NIDDK and NLM is in the public domain and its free use is encouraged. It is requested that any subsequent published use be given appropriate acknowledgement.



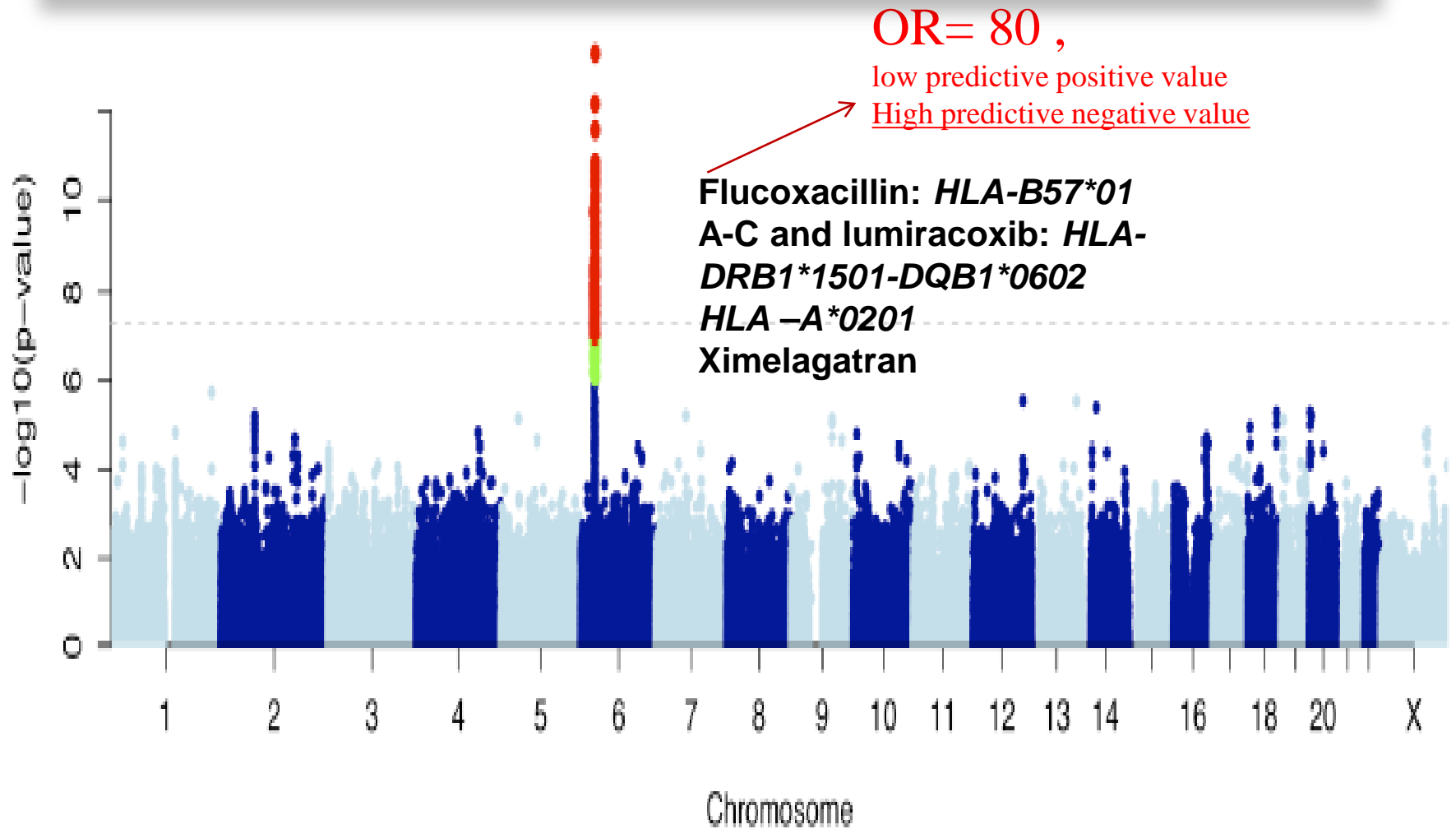
Categorization of Drugs Implicated in Causing Liver Injury: Critical Assessment Based on Published Case Reports

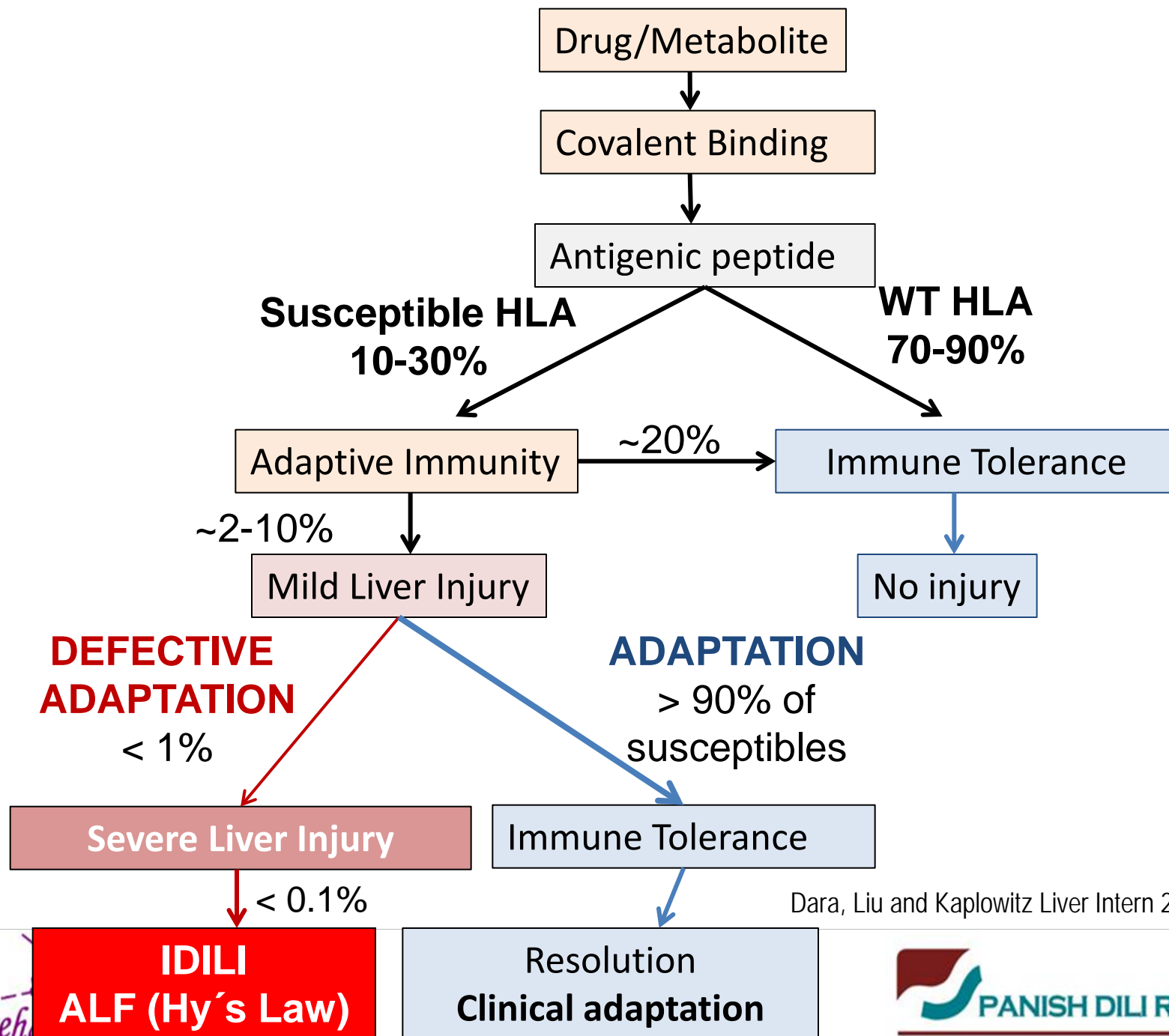
Einar S. Björnsson^{1,2} and Jay H. Hoofnagle³

Category A	The drug is well known, well described and well reported to cause either direct or idiosyncratic liver injury, and has a characteristic signature; more than 50 cases including case series have been described
Category B	The drug is reported and known or highly likely to cause idiosyncratic liver injury and has a characteristic signature; between 12 and 50 cases including small case series have been described
Category C	The drug is probably linked to idiosyncratic liver injury, but has been reported uncommonly and no characteristic signature has been identified; the number of identified cases is less than 12 without significant case series
Category D	Single case reports have appeared implicating the drug, but fewer than 3 cases have been reported in the literature, no characteristic signature has been identified, and the case reports may not have been very convincing. Thus, the agent can only be said to be a possible hepatotoxin and only a rare cause of liver injury
Category E	Despite extensive use, no evidence that the drug has caused liver injury. Single case reports may have been published, but they were largely unconvincing. The agent is not believed or is unlikely to cause liver injury
Category E*	The drug is suspected to be capable of causing liver injury or idiosyncratic acute liver injury but there have been no convincing cases in the medical literature. In some situations cases of acute liver injury have been reported to regulatory agencies or mentioned in large clinical studies of the drug, but the specifics and details supportive of causality assessment are not available. The agent is unproven, but suspected to cause liver injury
Category X	Finally, for medications recently introduced into or rarely used in clinical medicine, there may be inadequate information on the risks of developing liver injury to place it in any of the five categories, and the category is characterized as “unknown”



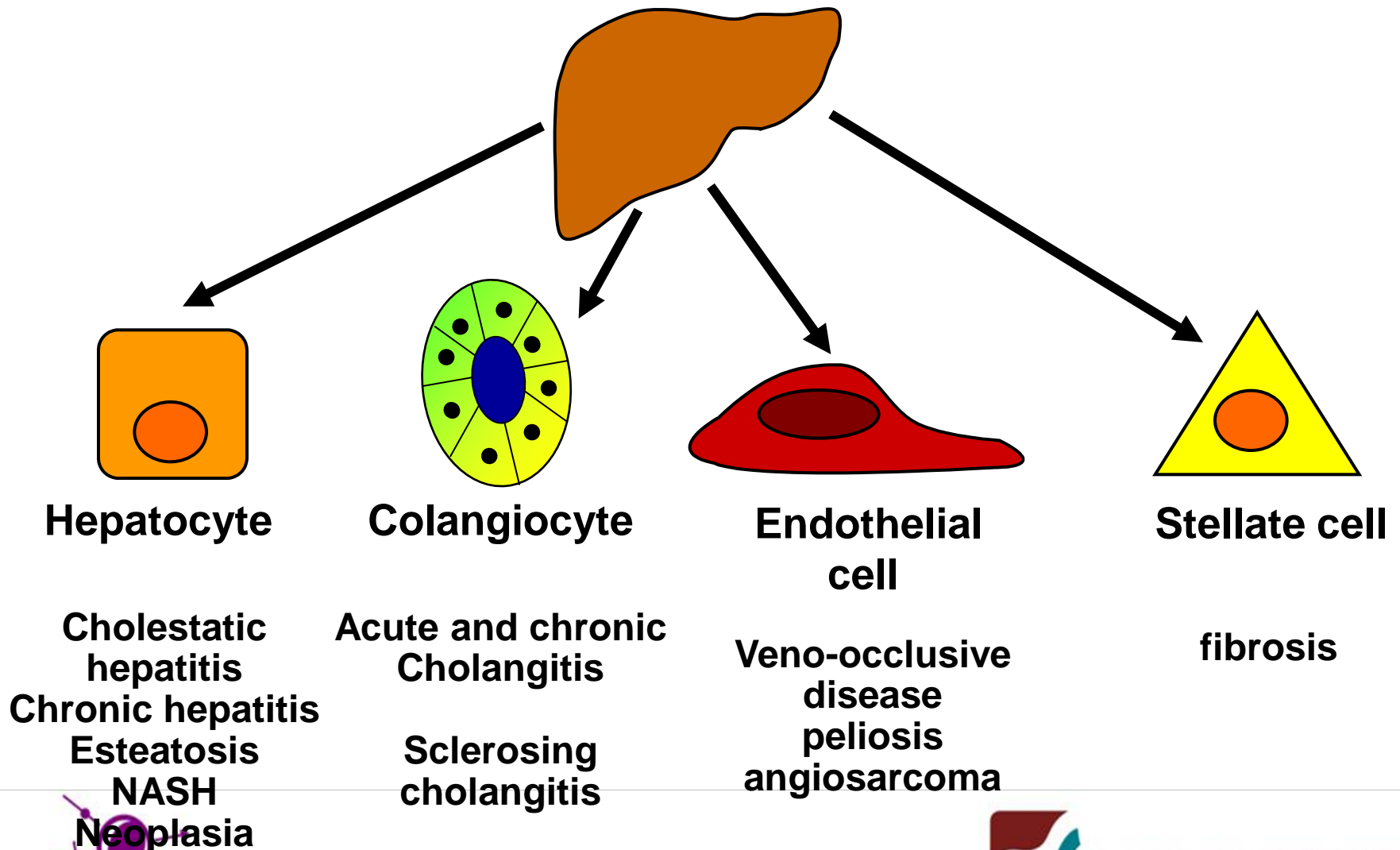
GWAS: chromosome 6 (HLA genes)





Dara, Liu and Kaplowitz Liver Intern 2015;

Clinico-pathological patterns



DILI presentation

- Hepatitis/cholestasis «like» syndrome or abnormalities in liver enzymes
- Atypical phenotypes
 - AIH
 - NAFLD
 - NRH, SOS, peliosis hepatis
- Hypersensitivity syndromes (point to drug allergy and makes DILI more probable)
 - Non-specific Rash
 - Erythema multiforme
 - Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)
 - Steven-Johnson/toxic epidermal necrolysis
- Rechallenge unintentional (6%)
- Previous DILI episodes (1.2%)

Interpretation of toxic liver damage by liver biochemistry alterations

- What are liver enzymes?
- Biochemical tests that reflect the health or pathologic , mainly inflammation and alteration in liver function.
- Useful
 - Screening of diseases or check in health population
 - Study of persistent and unspecific symptoms
 - Evaluation previous to surgery or diagnostic or therapeutic procedure
 - Study of liver disease suspicion

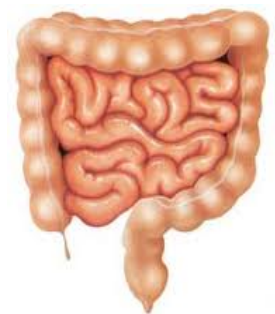
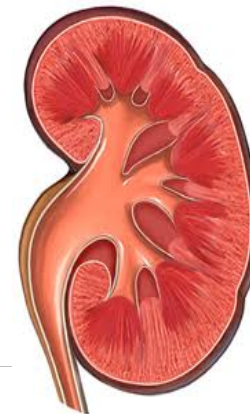
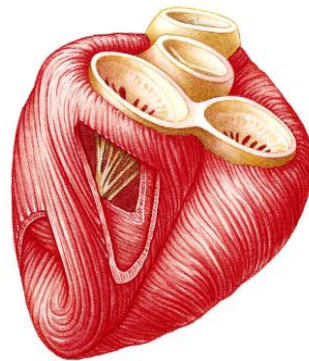
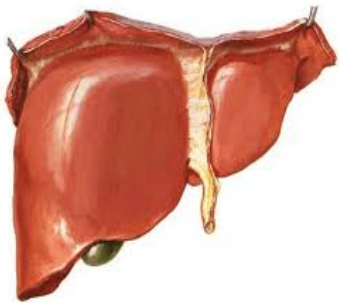
Liver tests panel

- AST
- ALT
- Alkaline phosphatase
- GGT
- Bilirubin (total and direct)
- INR
- Others: albumin globulins,

Source of AST and ALT

The transamination reaction occurs in several organs exchanging an amino group for a ketogroup

- ALT is also in the heart and muscle but it is more concentrated in the liver
- Increases in both transaminases show liver injury
- Levels do not correlated with severity of the lesion
- Normal range vary among laboratories (31-72 U/L)

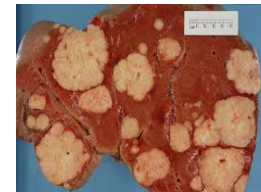
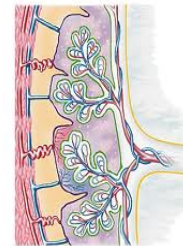
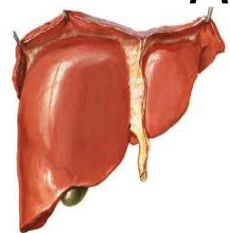


What does an elevated ALT value mean?

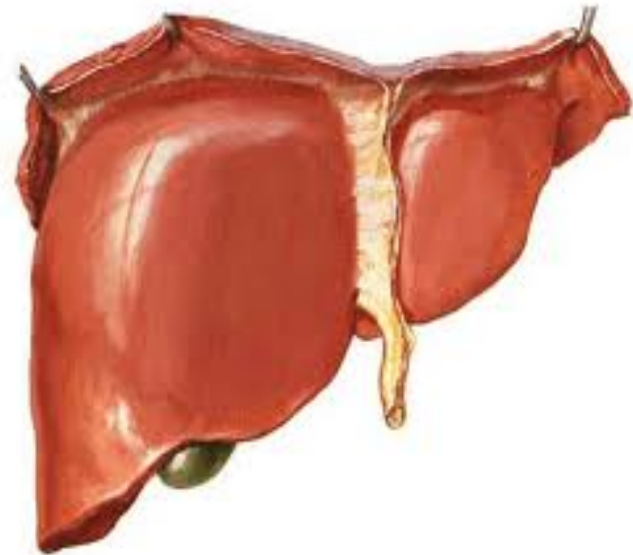
- It is not a test of liver function
- It does not necessarily predict worse effects to come (in a given person)
- It is not a valid measure of severity of liver injury or dysfunction.
- It is too unspecific to be reliable in screening for relatively rare effects on the liver.
- ALT remain the hallmark for detecting and classifying liver damage in DILI

Source of Alkaline Phosphatase

- Physiologic increase in the 3 first months of life, puberty (2-5 times higher than in adults) with a gradual increase between 40–65 years old mainly in women.
- In smokers ALP can be a 10% higher.
- People with blood type B and O could have an increase in ALP after a fatty meal due to liberation of intestinal ALP.

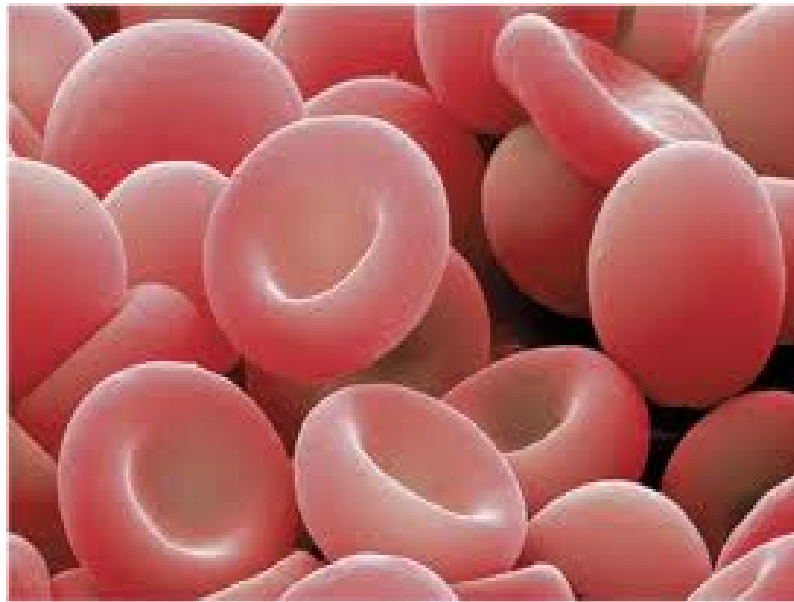


Source of GGT



The foremost value of GGT is to confirm the hepatic origin of ALP

Source of bilirubin



Serum total bilirubin is an indicator of liver function
(the ability of the liver to clear plasma of bilirubin)

Alteration of liver profile

Sodio	135	mEq/L	135 - 145
Potasio	3.7	mEq/L	3.5 - 5.0
Cloro	102	mEq/L	85 - 110
Calcio	9.2	mg/dL	8.5 - 10.5
L.D.H	* 1715	U/L	84 - 246
GOT -ASAT-	* 1922	U/L	10 - 37
GPT -ALAT -	* 633	U/L	10 - 65
Gamma -GT	* 506	U/L	5 - 85
Fosfatasa Alcalina (ALP)	* 434	U/L	50 - 136
Bilirrubina Total	1.33	mg/dL	0.25 - 1.50
Bilirrubina Directa	* 0.93	mg/dL	0.10 - 0.50
Proteínas Totales	7.3	g/dL	6.4 - 8.2
Albúmina Sérica	3.9	g/dL	3.3 - 5.2
Cociente Albúmina / Globulina :	1.2	-	

Alteration of liver biochemistry

Aspartato transaminasa	*	116	U/L	13 - 40
Alanina transaminasa	*	235	U/L	7 - 40
Gamma glutamiltransferasa	*	622	U/L	15 - 85
Fosfatasa Alcalina	*	246	U/L	45 - 117
Bilirrubina Total	*	7.49	mg/dL	0.20 - 1.00
Bilirrubina Directa	*	5.88	mg/dL	<0.30

What to do?

- A careful interrogatory:
 - Drugs or alcohol intake
 - Risk behaviour
 - Underlying disease
- A complete diagnostic work-up including blood analytes and a imaging tests

Coagulation parameters

Tiempo de protrombina

Tiempo de protrombina (segundos)	13.4	seg	10.0 - 15.0
Tiempo de protrombina (porcentaje)	80	%	70 - 130
Tiempo de protrombina (ratio)	1.2	ratio	0.8 - 1.2
Tiempo de protrombina normalizado (INR)	1.1	INR	0.8 - 1.2

Tiempo de tromboplastina parcial activada

Tiempo de tromboplastina parcial activada (segundos)	25.8	seg	25.0 - 38.0
Tiempo de tromboplastina parcial activada (ratio)	1.0	ratio	0.8 - 1.2

Virus serology

HBsAg	Negativo
Anti-HBs	Negativo

Anti-HBc	Negativo
Anti-HAV-IgM	Negativo
Antc-Virus Hepatitis C	Negativo

Citomegalovirus IgG	Positivo
Citomegalovirus IgM	Negativo
Herpesvirus IgG	Pendiente 
Herpesvirus IgM	Pendiente 
Epstein Barr IgG	Negativo
Epstein Barr IgM	Negativo

Serum proteins

Proteínas Totales	6.5	g/dL	6.4 - 8.2
PROTEINOGRAMA			
Albúmina	* 3.4	g/dL	3.8 - 4.2
Alfa 1 Globulina	* 0.4	g/dL	0.4 - 0.7
Alfa 2 Globulina	0.7	g/dL	0.6 - 1.0
Beta Globulina	* 0.5	g/dL	0.5 - 0.8
Gamma Globulina	* 1.7	g/dL	0.7 - 1.3
Cociente A/G	* 1.1		1.2 - 2.2
Albúmina %	51.60	%	50.30 - 63.60
Alfa 1 %	5.40	%	4.80 - 10.00
Alfa 2 %	10.20	%	8.40 - 15.00
Beta %	7.20	%	7.20 - 11.90
Gamma %	* 25.60	%	9.50 - 19.90
Comenteario (proteinograma)			
Componente monoclonal en fracción gamma			
Inmunoglobulina A	* 41	mg/dl	70 - 400
Inmunoglobulina G	* 2000	mg/dl	700 - 1600
Inmunoglobulina M	* 15	mg/dl	40 - 230

Alfa1 -Antitripsina	156	mg/dL	90 - 200
Ceruloplasmina	* 18	mg/dl	20 - 60
Cobre en Suero	120.0	mcg/dl	70.0 - 152.0

Screening for Autoimmune disorders

- Antinuclear autoantibody (ANA)
- Anti-smooth muscle autoantibody (ASMA)
- Anti liver kidney microsomal type 1 autoantibody (AntiLKM-1)
- Antimitochondrial autoantibody (AMA)
- IgG levels

Imaging techniques

- Abdominal Ultrasound
- CT
- MRI (ERCP)

Common patterns of liver biochemistry abnormalities

- Pattern with predominance of marked cytolysis with high levels of aminotransferases
- Chronic and recurrent moderate increase in transaminases
- Pattern with predominance of cholestasis (mixed cytolysis and alkaline phosphatase)
- Isolated increase in bilirubin
- Isolated increase in alkaline phosphatase and/or GGT

Pattern with markedly raised aminotransferases

- Acute viral hepatitis (A, B, C, E)
- Autoimmune hepatitis.
- Ischemic hepatitis.
- Unknown etiology hepatitis

Chronic and recurrent moderate increase in transaminases

- Chronic hepatitis B
- Chronic hepatitis C
- Chronic hepatitis E (infrequent)
- Non alcoholic fatty liver disease
- Alcoholic fatty liver disease
- Hemocromatosis
- Wilson disease

Pattern with predominance of cholestasis (mixed cytolysis /ALP + GGT)

- Obstructive biliary malignancies
- Liver metastasis
- Choledocolitiasis
- Primary biliary cirrhosis
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis.

Isolated increase in ALP Isolated increase in GGT

- Growth
 - Bone metastasis
 - Paget disease
 - Others (physiologic: pregnancy)
- Alcoholism
 - Obesity
 - Drugs (phenytoin)

Isolated increase in bilirubin

- Gilbert syndrome
- Hemolysis (increase in LDH)

Key concepts when assessing liver biochemistry in DILI suspicion

- Isolated increase in GGT does not reflect liver injury (enzimatic drug induction)
- Isolated increase in ALP is associated with physiological and pathological conditions other than liver injury (i.e. puberty, pregnancy, bone metastasis)
- ALT, ALP and total bilirubin should be screened in every DILI suspicion

Key concepts when using liver biochemistry in DILI suspicion (cont.)

- Elevated ALT itself is useful for detecting liver damage but not severity of whole liver impairment
- Liver biochemistry may not represent the true onset time of liver cell injury, which may already be advanced, subsiding or past when first found
- To determine how severe the injury is and whether it is *progressing* or *regressing*
 - Immediate testing and serial measurements of ALT, total bilirubin and INR is required
 - Diagnostic work-up for alternative causes should start immediately

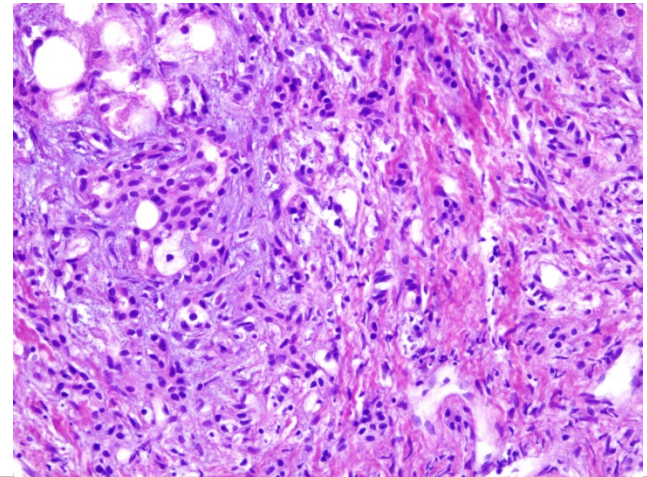
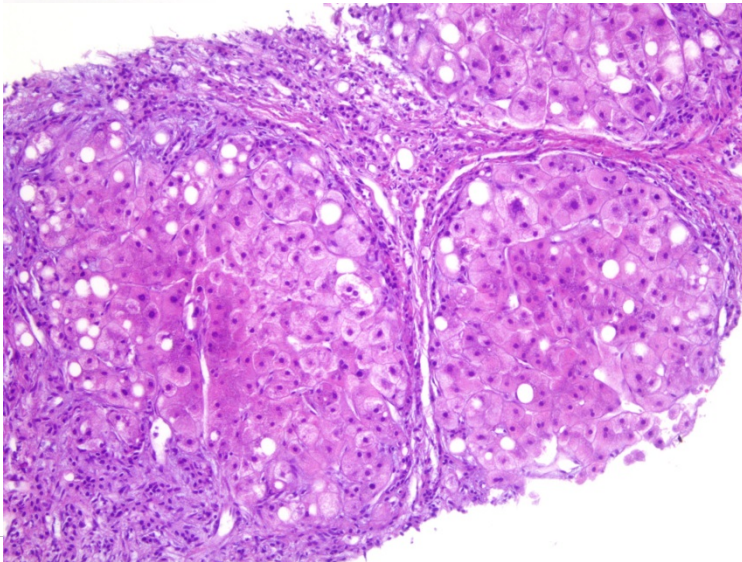
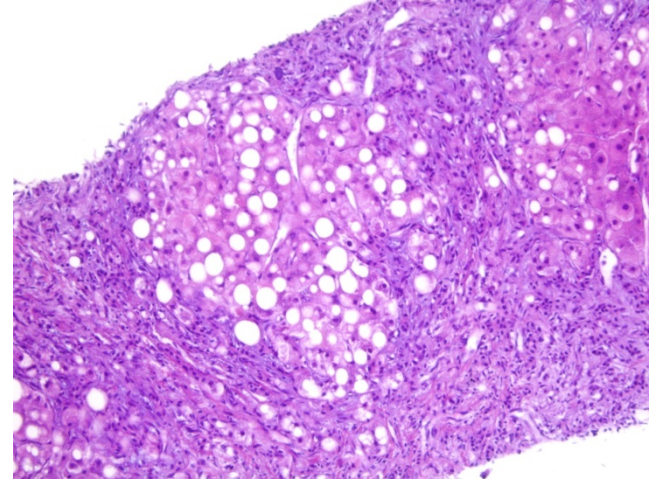
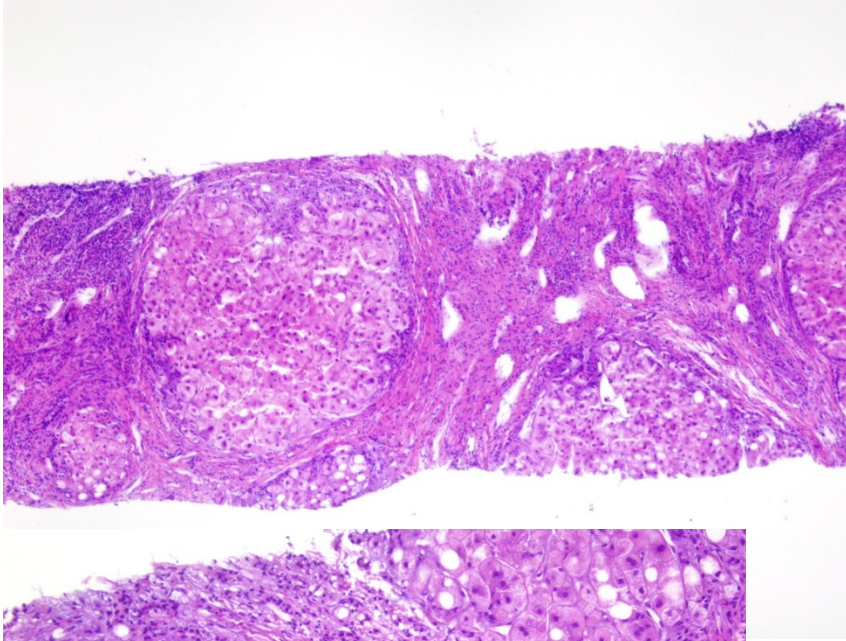
Clinical case 1

- A 37 yr female (BMI 24.6) started **azithromycin** (500 mg/d) during 3 days in Nov 2013, followed by **amoxicillin-clavulanic acid** (immediately before suspending azithromycin for 7 days) because of respiratory tract infection. No other drugs.
 - Previously diagnosed of cholestasis of pregnancy and diabetes during pregnancy in 2011
- While on amoxicillin-clavulanate she experienced dark urine, pale stools and itching. At examination she was slightly jaundiced
 - Liver tests at admission TB: 3,24 (Normal < 1,1mg/dL), AST 427 (Normal < 40UI/L), ALT 602 (Normal < 42 UI/L), ALP 216 (Normal < 130UI/L). Colagulation was normal. Blood cell count $2.7 \times 10^9/L$ eosinophils 2.2%)
 - Diagnostic workup ruled out viral hepatitis A, B, C, E. Serum autoantibodies were negative.

Clinical case 2

- 44 yr female, (BMI 28.9)started **tamoxifen** on Jan 2003 after breast cancer surgery.
 - Baseline liver tests: AST 68 U/L (normal < 35), ALT 86 U/L (normal<43), and GGT 280 U/L (normal < 35), with normal TB and ALP.
- In June 2003 jaundice
 - TB 1.85 mg/dL, AST 186 U/L, ALT 112 U/L, and GGT 446 U/L.
- TB reached 3.68 mg/dL and **tamoxifen** was discontinued on December 2003
- She voluntary decided to reintroduce **tamoxifen** on March 2004
 - TB 10.83 mg/dL, AST 154 U/L, ALT 47 U/L, ALP 132 U/L (normal < 100) and GGT 351 U/L.
 - Serology ruled out viral causes and screening for autoantibodies was negative

Liver biopsy



Liver biopsy

