

IN BRIEF

IBD

Treatment for acute severe ulcerative colitis

A comparative evaluation of the clinical effectiveness of ciclosporin versus infliximab for acute severe ulcerative colitis was reported recently. 270 patients with acute severe ulcerative colitis that failed to respond to intravenous hydrocortisone within 5 days were randomly allocated to receive infliximab or ciclosporin. No statistically significant differences between groups were noted for quality-adjusted survival, frequency of colectomy, mean time to colectomy, or number of serious adverse events.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Williams, J. G. *et al.* Infliximab versus ciclosporin for steroid-resistant acute severe ulcerative colitis (CONSTRUCT): a mixed methods, open-label, pragmatic randomised trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol. Hepatol.* [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2468-1253\(16\)30003-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2468-1253(16)30003-6)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Standardized hashtags in #gastroenterology

Social media has become an important communication tool in health care. Hashtags help serve as a search function, which is important given that around 500 millions posts are made on Twitter each day. A project to devise a standardized list of gastroenterology-related hashtags (hashtag ontology) has now been completed. Key stakeholders, such as professional organisations and peer-reviewed journals, were involved in reviewing the list, and it is hoped that the finalized hashtag ontology should enable patients and physicians to search and find relevant content more easily.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Chiang, A. L. *et al.* Harnessing the hashtag: a standard approach to GI dialogue on social media. *Am. J. Gastroenterol.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ajg.2016.259>

NAFLD

Severity of NAFLD in patients who are not obese

Although NAFLD is closely linked to obesity, NAFLD can develop in patients who are not obese. The severity and clinical outcomes of NAFLD in non-obese individuals have now been investigated. 307 patients with NAFLD were recruited for the study (23.5% were not obese). Compared with patients who were obese, those who were not obese had lower NAFLD activity scores, lower fibrosis stage and lower liver stiffness measurement. Thus, these patients have less severe disease than their counterparts with obesity. Hypertriglyceridaemia and high creatine levels are associated with advanced liver disease in patients with NAFLD who are not obese.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Leung, J. C.-F. *et al.* Histological severity and clinical outcomes of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in non-obese patients. *Hepatology* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/hep.28697>

LIVER

Novel therapeutic strategy for Wilson disease

Wilson disease is characterized by excessive copper accumulation in the liver and fulminant hepatitis. A recent study has investigated the therapeutic potential of methanobactin, a peptide produced by *Methylosinus trichosporium* OB3b that has a high affinity for copper. In a rat model of Wilson disease, short-term treatment with methanobactin was able to prevent hepatocyte death, subsequent liver failure and death. The researchers propose methanobactin as “the lead drug of choice to develop a more efficient and safe treatment of [Wilson disease]”.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Lichtmanegger, J. *et al.* Methanobactin reverses acute liver failure in a rat model of Wilson disease. *J. Clin. Invest.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1172/JCI85226>