Important update from the BSG VP Hepatology and the BASL and BSG Presidents

Recent government announcements have indicated that the liver patients to be included in the ‘shielding group’ should be those receiving immunosuppression for a liver transplant or for autoimmune hepatitis. Government is mandating 12 weeks self-isolation for these groups of people.

The consensus view in our specialty acknowledges the higher risk for patients with decompensated cirrhosis, who are not included in the shielding cohort. We recommend that these patients with decompensated cirrhosis should be advised to adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves. Clinicians will not however have to identify this group to their GPs for coding as COVID at RISK. This is reflected in the updated Liver Risk Grid issued by BSG and BASL.

The impact of immunosuppression on the severity of COVID-19 disease remains unclear. Factors associated with more severe disease are older age and presence of other medical conditions.

Box 1. Patients with liver disease in high risk group

1. Patients aged ≥ 70 years of age
2. Pregnancy
3. Patients with other co-morbidities
   1. Cardiac disease
   2. Respiratory disease
   3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. All recipients of a liver transplant taking immunosuppression
5. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis taking immunosuppression

Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis have increased risk and we recommend they adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves.

*There may be others not in the above groups felt by the treating physician to also be at higher risk and these should be assessed on a case-case basis.

Drafted on behalf of British Society of Gastroenterology and the British Association for the Study of the Liver

Hepatology Risk Groups BSG BASL v2.0

1. Patients aged ≥ 70 years of age
2. Pregnancy
3. Patients with other co-morbidities
   1. Cardiac disease
   2. Respiratory disease
   3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. All recipients of a liver transplant taking immunosuppression
5. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis taking immunosuppression

Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis have increased risk and we recommend they adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves.

*There may be others not in the above groups felt by the treating physician to also be at higher risk and these should be assessed on a case-case basis.

Important update from the BSG VP Hepatology and the BASL and BSG Presidents

Recent government announcements have indicated that the liver patients to be included in the ‘shielding group’ should be those receiving immunosuppression for a liver transplant or for autoimmune hepatitis. Government is mandating 12 weeks self-isolation for these groups of people.

The consensus view in our specialty acknowledges the higher risk for patients with decompensated cirrhosis, who are not included in the shielding cohort. We recommend that these patients with decompensated cirrhosis should be advised to adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves. Clinicians will not however have to identify this group to their GPs for coding as COVID at RISK. This is reflected in the updated Liver Risk Grid issued by BSG and BASL.

The impact of immunosuppression on the severity of COVID-19 disease remains unclear. Factors associated with more severe disease are older age and presence of other medical conditions.

Box 1. Patients with liver disease in high risk group

1. Patients aged ≥ 70 years of age
2. Pregnancy
3. Patients with other co-morbidities
   1. Cardiac disease
   2. Respiratory disease
   3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. All recipients of a liver transplant taking immunosuppression
5. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis taking immunosuppression

Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis have increased risk and we recommend they adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves.

*There may be others not in the above groups felt by the treating physician to also be at higher risk and these should be assessed on a case-case basis.

Drafted on behalf of British Society of Gastroenterology and the British Association for the Study of the Liver

Hepatology Risk Groups BSG BASL v2.0

1. Patients aged ≥ 70 years of age
2. Pregnancy
3. Patients with other co-morbidities
   1. Cardiac disease
   2. Respiratory disease
   3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. All recipients of a liver transplant taking immunosuppression
5. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis taking immunosuppression

Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis have increased risk and we recommend they adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves.

*There may be others not in the above groups felt by the treating physician to also be at higher risk and these should be assessed on a case-case basis.

Drafted on behalf of British Society of Gastroenterology and the British Association for the Study of the Liver

Hepatology Risk Groups BSG BASL v2.0

1. Patients aged ≥ 70 years of age
2. Pregnancy
3. Patients with other co-morbidities
   1. Cardiac disease
   2. Respiratory disease
   3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. All recipients of a liver transplant taking immunosuppression
5. Patients with autoimmune hepatitis taking immunosuppression

Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis have increased risk and we recommend they adhere strictly to social distancing measures in order to protect themselves.

*There may be others not in the above groups felt by the treating physician to also be at higher risk and these should be assessed on a case-case basis.