

DISEASE PATTERNS AND ENTITIES IN CONSULT MEDICAL LIVER BIOPSIES HIGHLIGHT CHALLENGING DIAGNOSTIC AREAS IN HEPATOPATHOLOGY

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A six-year review of 147 liver biopsy consultations at a reference centre identified vascular liver disease, hepatitic injury patterns, and primary cholangiopathies as the most challenging diagnostic areas in hepatopathology.

KEY POINTS

- Major diagnostic changes occurred in 73 of 133 cases (54.9%) after expert consultation, with vascular diseases emerging as the most common final diagnosis (15.1%) compared to only 2.3% in initial reports.
- Initial reports frequently lacked adequate clinical information (73.3%), appropriate special stains (76.9%), disease grading or staging (45.1%), and aetiology assessment (55.5%).
- The most common reasons for consultation were confirmation of diagnosis (50.3%), autoimmune hepatitis query (11.6%), and NASH or PBC queries (7.5% each).
- Additional histochemical and immunohistochemical stains were performed in 78.7% of consult cases, while unnecessary stains had been performed initially in 23.1% of cases.
- This material may be most relevant to pathologists and hepatologists involved in liver biopsy interpretation and those developing educational programmes in hepatopathology.

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