Introduction

Whilst early management and outcome of decompensated ALD has been extensively studied, there are few published data on long-term outcome. We have previously (McFarlane, Gut 2006; 55:A2 and 55:A36) reported on early and 4-yr mortality in 249 patients (160 men, age (mean(range)) 50(27–77) yr) admitted consecutively to our unit between 1/4/1998 and 31/12/2005 with first presentation of decompensated ALD (Child grade B or C). Here we aimed to assess long-term mortality and its associations in this cohort.

Methods

We reviewed available hospital records, and death certificates and contacted surviving patients and general practitioners to assess who had died, the causes of death and the patients’ overall alcohol drinking behaviour subsequent to the index hospital episode (classified as: abstinent, continued drinking but reduced, and did not reduce).

Results

87 patients died during the index hospital episode, all because of liver disease. The other 212 patients (including one transplanted during the index episode) were followed up for 4.3 (0.03–13.0) years. Only one other patient was transplanted. 154 patients have subsequently died. Cause of death is known in 134 (87%) and was due to liver disease in 95 (71%) of these. Only 4 patients died of hepatocellular carcinoma. Overall 5- and 10-year mortality rates were 52+ (SEM) 4% and 73+ 3% respectively; corresponding rates from causes known to be liver related were 41+5% and 51+4%. Patients who were abstinent (n = 52) had lower total and known liver-related mortality (61+9% and 20+6% after 10 yr) compared to those who continued but reduced (n = 105; 73+5%) and those who did not reduce (n = 53; 91+4% p < 0.001 and 71+7% p < 0.001). In Cox regression analysis, both total and known liver-related mortality were independent of age, gender and severity of liver dysfunction at index presentation (Child, MELD, Glasgow and Maddrey scores) but were strongly associated with subsequent drinking behaviour (both p < 0.001) and inversely associated with serum albumin at discharge following index hospital episode (p = 0.001 and 0.019).

Conclusion

Patients with decompensated ALD who survive their first hospital episode have high long-term mortality; mainly due to liver disease, which is reduced but not prevented by abstinence.

Disclosure of Interest

None Declared

Results

29 patients with ALD admitted to ICU were included, median age 46 yrs, 79% males. 82.7% (24/29) were Child Pugh Score C. Mean ITU stay was 5.2 days. Overall ICU and hospital mortality was 51.7% (15/29) and 65.8% (19/29) respectively. 20 (69%) were previously known ALD and 9 (31%) were at first presentation. ICU and in hospital mortality in first presentation ALD group was 67% (6/9) and 89% (8/9) compared with 45% (9/20) and 55% (11/20) respectively for previously known ALD. The reasons for admission to ICU were variceal bleeding (59%), sepsis (17%) and 37% other (encephalopathy, other causes of bleeding, seizures, renal support). ICU and in hospital mortality in the variceal bleeding subgroup was 47% and 58% respectively compared to 100% ICU and hospital mortality for sepsis. Patients with multigorgan failure had the worst prognosis. Organ failure was predefined based on level of support required on admission to ITU.

Conclusion

Mortality remains high in ALD patients admitted to ICU. In this study, acute variceal bleeding and single or dual organ support were associated with better survival outcomes compared with other presentations and outcomes were not better in patients presenting for the first time with ALD compared to recurrent admissions. Escalation therapy to ICU for patients with sepsis or requiring multiple organ support may be futile.

Disclosure of Interest

None Declared