involved in mechano-transduction. PDLIM5 mRNA expression was confirmed by qPCR, and PDLIM5 protein expression was demonstrated by WB and ICC in both LX-2 cells and primary HSCs. Stimulation of LX-2 cells with TGFβ (2 ng/ml) for 24 hrs significantly increased expression of enigma proteins. siRNA knock down of PDLIM5 reduced the expression of fibrogenic genes including ACTA2, CTGF, and COL1; and was accompanied by increased cytoplasmic localization and phosphorylation (inactivation) of YAP1.

Conclusion In brief, our work defined a new mechanism for activation and nuclear translocation of YAP1 in HSCs via the enigma family protein PDLIM5. Understanding hippo independent mechanisms of YAP1 activation in HSCs may reveal novel targets for urgently needed anti-fibrotics.

P3 PORTO-MESENTERIC THROMBOSIS IN A NON-CIRRHTIC PATIENT WITH SARS-COV-2 INFECTION

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Introduction During the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is clear this novel coronavirus generates a markedly hypercoagulable state. Thrombotic events are driven by a severe pro-inflammatory response to COVID-19 as well as hypoxia manifested in severe illness. Whilst the commonest thrombotic events associated with COVID-19 remain pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction and deep vein thrombosis, intra-abdominal thrombosis are less well characterised, but are illustrated in this case.

Case Presentation A 42 year-old Eastern European man with chronic hepatitis B (undetectable viral load on Entecavir; eAg negative; sAg positive; alanine transaminase (ALT) 34 IU/l; FibroScan 7.4KPa Nov 2019), and prior trauma-related splenectomy (1998), developed pyrexia and cough on the 23rd March 2020, he is currently asymptomatic. He was subsequently admitted by the general surgeons and his fever resolved on symptom-day 10, following a course of Amoxicillin, then Doxycycline, for presumed bronchitis – a failed TIPSS that was then repeated successfully in the same patient. The average age was 58 (29–84) and 54 (58%) were male. 72 (77.4%) referrals were from Cardiff and Vale, 19 (20.4%) were from the rest of South Wales, and 2 (2.2%) were from England.

The predominant aetiologies of cirrhosis were alcohol (44%), NASH (23%), viral hepatitis (9%) and PBC (6%).

Discussion TIPSS is an effective therapy in selected cases. The demand for TIPSS is increasing. Formalised referral pathways would improve access across South Wales. In alignment with the 2020 BSG TIPSS guidelines a concordant indication was present in 91/93 (97.8%) of cases. 

P4 A 21 YEAR REVIEW OF TRANSJUGULAR INTRAHEPATIC PORTOSYSTEMIC SHUNT PLACEMENTS IN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF WALES, CARDIFF

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Introduction Decompensated cirrhosis is associated with poor outcomes and the incidence of advanced liver disease has increased in Wales over the last two decades. Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunts (TIPSS) are an effective treatment of recurrent variceal bleeding and refractory ascites.

Methods A retrospective casenote review of all successful and unsuccessful TIPSS procedures at University Hospital of Wales, Clinical scores were calculated from bloods at the time of TIPSS placement. These cases were then compared to the 2020 BSG TIPSS guidelines for concordance.

Results 93 TIPSS procedures were attempted between March 1999 and June 2020, 85 (91%) of which were successful. The average age was 58 (29–84) and 54 (58%) were male. 72 (77.4%) referrals were from Cardiff and Vale, 19 (20.4%) were from the rest of South Wales, and 2 (2.2%) were from England.

The predominant aetiologies of cirrhosis were alcohol (44%), NASH (23%), viral hepatitis (9%) and PBC (6%).

The main indications for TIPSS were oesophageal (53%) and gastric (11%) variceal bleeding, resistant ascites (24%), stomal variceal bleeding (6%). Of note, a caecal varix was the indication in one case and GAVE was the indication in two cases (a failed TIPSS that was then repeated successfully in the same patient). The average MELD-Na was 14 (6–29). The average post-TIPSS gradient was 8.5 mmHg (2–13). 30-day survival was 93%. Poorer survival was associated with increasing MELD-Na. All 4 patients with MELD-Na >24 died by day 32. There has been an increase in TIPSS procedures from an average of 1 per year between 1999–2004 to 8 per year between 2017–2019. 11 TIPSS procedures were performed in 2019, all successful. 6 successful TIPSS performed in 2020 so far.

Discussion TIPSS is an effective therapy in selected cases. The demand for TIPSS is increasing. Formalised referral pathways would improve access across South Wales. In alignment with the 2020 BSG TIPSS guidelines a concordant indication was present in 91/93 (97.8%) of cases.