

CZH/4/1105 - Long-Term Outcomes and healthcare utilisation of patients surviving acute liver failure (the surviving ALF study)

Acute liver failure (ALF) is a devastating clinical syndrome characterised by sudden loss of liver functions. In Scotland, most patients with ALF are managed centrally in the Scottish Liver Transplantation Unit (SLTU). 62% survive their acute admission without requiring liver transplantation (spontaneous survivors). Very little research has been undertaken on the long-term outcomes of this group. Our hypothesis is that the generally accepted paradigm applied to spontaneous ALF survivors, i.e. that clinical recovery is complete without lasting morbidity and mortality, is wrong. The SLTU maintains a comprehensive, high quality database of all ALF admissions since 1992. Our objective is to link this unique resource to national datasets to determine if spontaneous survivors have increased long-term mortality, morbidity and healthcare utilisation compared with relevant comparator populations. This will provide internationally important long-term outcome data of non-transplanted ALF survivors and potentially lead to a re-evaluation of the healthcare needs of these patients