

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals **NHS**



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**NHS 601 in Hammersmith Hospital**

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### 1.12.05

**TYPED WITHOUT NOTES**

**Dr. P. Basumani**

**Consultant Physician & Gastroenterologist**

**Rotherham General Hospital**

**Rotherham**

Dear Basu

**Barbara Lowe** GRO-A **46**

GRO-A 46

**GRO-A**

**Problems**

- auto-immune hepatitis – in remission
- mitral valve replacement
- ? allergic reaction to azathioprine

This lady came in for a trans-jugular biopsy (off warfarin) in September. We reviewed the results recently with Professor Underwood. There is no fibrosis and only minimal chronic hepatitis, so she has thus gone into remission, which is good news.

I saw her in the clinic today and she remains well (although I did not check her liver tests). I understand that she had some form of allergic reaction to azathioprine and would be very hesitant to restart this drug. This is a pity, because the strongest evidence base in terms of preventing flare-up of auto-immune hepatitis, as you know, was with azathioprine.

The alternatives are as follows: phase out the prednisolone slowly or reduce to a very tiny dose. Following complete withdrawal, there is about a 70% chance of a flare-up over 1-2 years, but it is not inevitable.

Alternatively, you could try her on an alternative agent such as mycophenolate, though the evidence base for using this is somewhat thin.

**Cont'd.....**



**Chairman: David Stone OBE • Chief Executive: Andrew Cash OBE**

**LIVER UNIT**

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Barbara Lowe cont'd...

There is no obviously right answer here, and I will leave it to your good judgement. Please let me know if I can be of further help. I am not planning to see her again routinely.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

DERMOT GLEESON  
CONSULTANT HEPATOLOGIST

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**Our Ref:** PB/DMH  
**Hospital no:** GRO-A

**Date:** 21 December 2005  
**Clinic:** 30 November 2005

Dr D Gleeson  
Consultant Hepatologist  
Royal Hallamshire Hospital  
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Dear Dr Gleeson

Barbara Lowe - GRO-A 1946

GRO-A

**Problems**

**Autoimmune hepatitis**

- Diagnosis on liver biopsy (August 2003)
- Repeat liver biopsy (September 2005) – in remission
- Skin rash with Azathioprine
- Osteopaenia

Mitral valve replacement – on long term Warfarin

Previous stroke with memory deficit

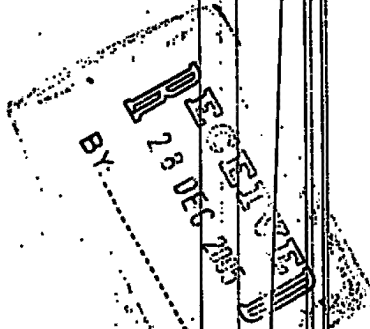
Thank you very much for your help in getting the repeat liver biopsy done and for your advice and guidance on further management.

Barbara is quite pleased that her repeat liver biopsy has confirmed histological remission. She was not keen to try new therapies like Mycophenolate at present. Therefore I will plan for a slow reduction of her Prednisolone – from 10mg per day, to be reduced by 1mg every month. I will review her at three monthly intervals for monitoring her condition.

Many thanks for your help again.

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