

### Question 31 – Week of March 11

Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Treatment with glucocorticoids and acetylcysteine increased 1-month and 6-month survival in patients with alcoholic hepatitis
- B. Early liver transplantation does not improve survival outcome in patients with severe alcoholic hepatitis not responding to medical therapy.
- C. In-hospital mortality rate for alcoholic hepatitis is decreased in the United States
- D. None of the above

**Answer: D**

Recent study in 174 patients who were randomly assigned to prednisolone and N-acetylcysteine and prednisolone alone showed that combination therapy increased 1-month survival among patients with alcoholic hepatitis, but not 6-month survival (1). Early data also showed that in those who did not respond to medical therapy, early transplantation can improve survival in these patients (2). In-hospital mortality rate for alcoholic hepatitis remains high, especially in those with infectious complications, hepatic encephalopathy, coagulopathy, and acute renal failure (3).

References:

1. Nguyen-Khac E, et al. Glucocorticoids plus N-acetylcysteine in severe alcoholic hepatitis. *N Engl J Med* 2011;365:1781-9
2. Mathurin P, et al. Early liver transplantation for severe alcoholic hepatitis. *N Engl J Med* 2011;365:1790-1800
3. Liangpunsakul S. Clinical characteristics and mortality of hospitalized alcoholic hepatitis patients in the United States. [J Clin Gastroenterol](#). 2011 Sep;45(8):714-9.