

AIH. Autoimmune Hepatitis

NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases study project

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Summary

Our immune system normally protects us by attacking the bugs that cause infections. Occasionally a person's immune system can develop a fault and start to attack parts of the body instead. In autoimmune hepatitis a faulty immune system attacks the liver. This can damage the liver leading to liver failure (AIH) and cirrhosis.

Autoimmune hepatitis is a rare disease that affects around 10 thousand people in the UK. People who develop autoimmune hepatitis need treatment with medicines to reduce the activity of the immune system, and many need lifelong treatment. Not everybody responds well to the current treatments and some people suffer from side effects of treatment. Some people still die of the condition and others need to have a liver transplant. We want to collect more information about the condition to help to improve treatment for people with autoimmune hepatitis.

Patients (adult) with autoimmune hepatitis are also being recruited to the UK-AIH national platform study (www.UK-AIH.com) and it is hoped that patients will be recruited to both UK-AIH and the NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases study. Children can be recruited to the NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases AIH project.

Recruitment Criteria

Inclusion

All patients with a clinical diagnosis of autoimmune hepatitis under secondary medical care in the UK.

Exclusion

None.