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Biliary Atresia: Aetiology, Diagnosis and Treatment

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Message from the Guest Editor

Despite extensive clinical and basic research, we know very little about the aetiology and pathomechanism of biliary atresia (BA). The following aspects should be considered alongside individual health issues: first, early organ replacement is a multifactorial burden for the growing organism, and second, every patient who survives with their native liver relieves the limited availability of donor organs and benefits national health expenditures with economic savings.

From that point of view, international and interdisciplinary strategies are mandatory, in as much as BA is a rare disease. Over the last several years, national and international initiatives have been established in order to improve screening, centralization, diagnosis, as well as surgical and adjuvant treatment protocols. One such initiative is the recently launched European rare diseases network “rare-liver”.

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