



INTRODUCTION

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a heterogeneous disease with a broad clinical spectrum.

AIM

To analyze the characteristics of patients with AIH with acute presentation in our area.

METHOD

179 patients diagnosed of AIH from 1995 to 2018 were included; 113, prospectively recorded, had acute presentation (AP) and 66, retrospectively recorded, other patterns of presentation (non-AP).

AIH diagnosis was based on Simplified Criteria or clinical judgment.

A liver biopsy was obtained in 143/179 patients (79.8%; 81.4% AP, 77.2% non-AP).

AP was defined by ALT>10xULN, severe acute hepatitis (SAH) by prothrombin <50% and acute liver failure (ALF) when encephalopathy was added to the previous findings.

RESULTS

Fig. 1. Clinical forms in acute presentation cases

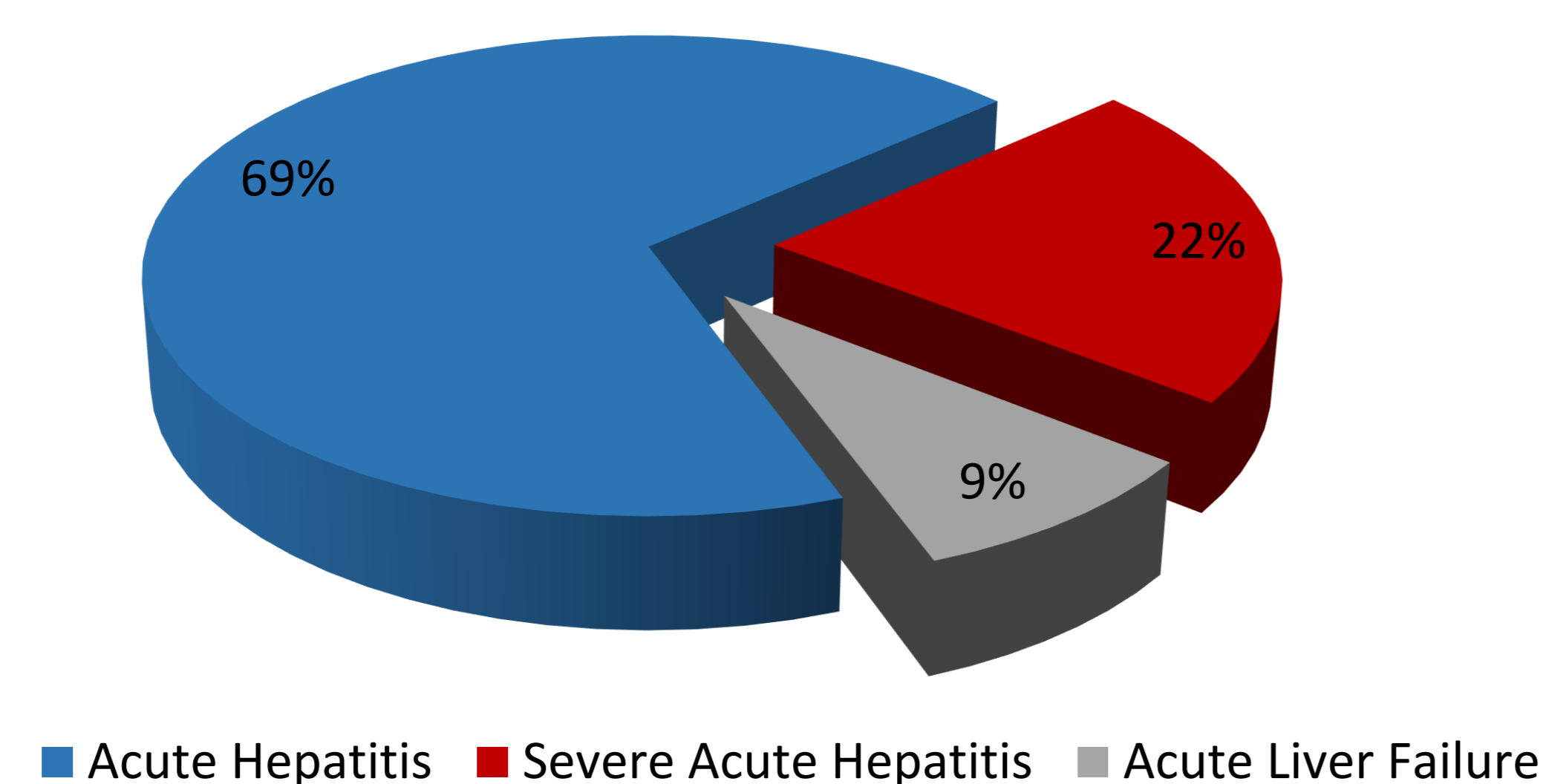


Fig. 2. Distribution of patients with acute presentation

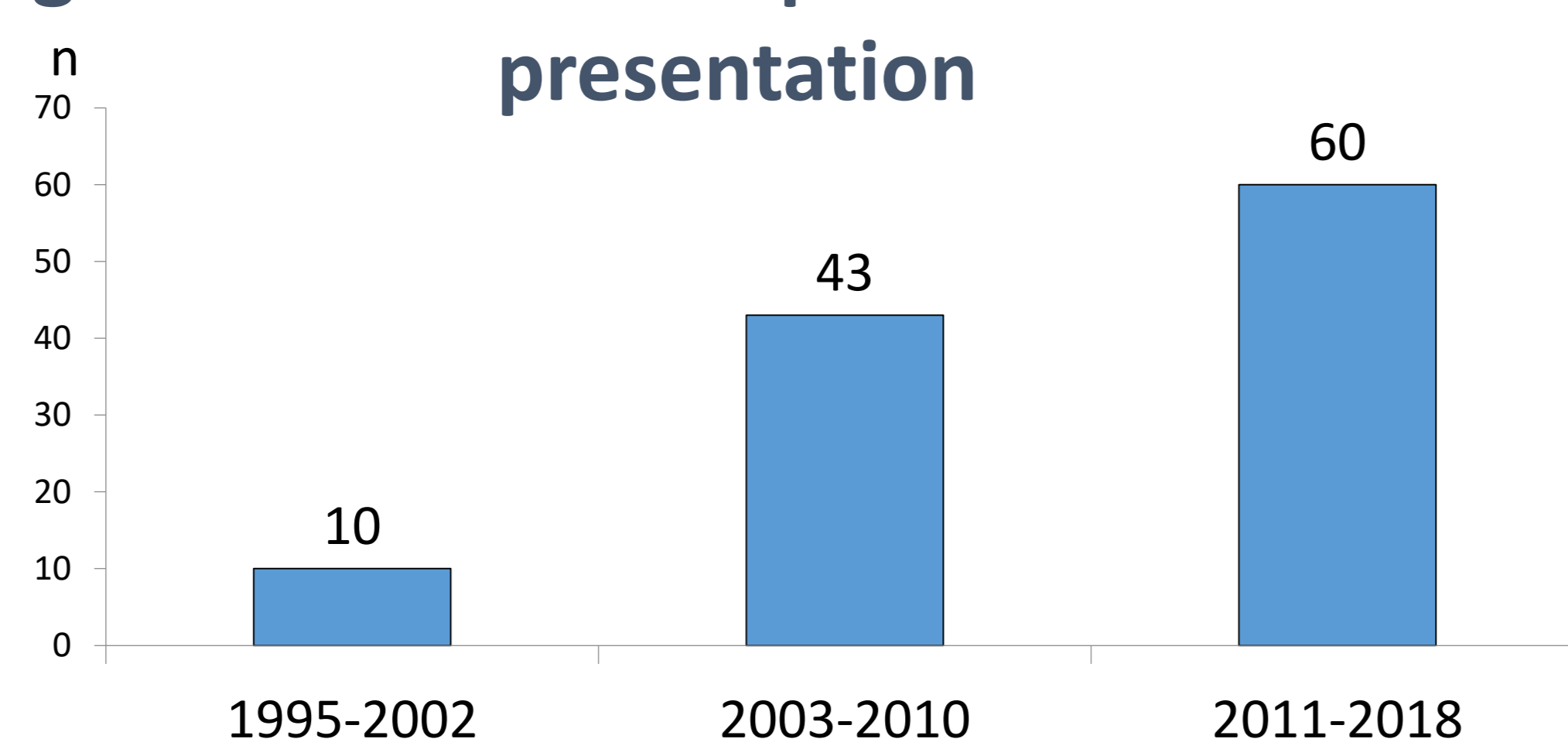


Fig. 3. Proportion of patients with SAH or ALF

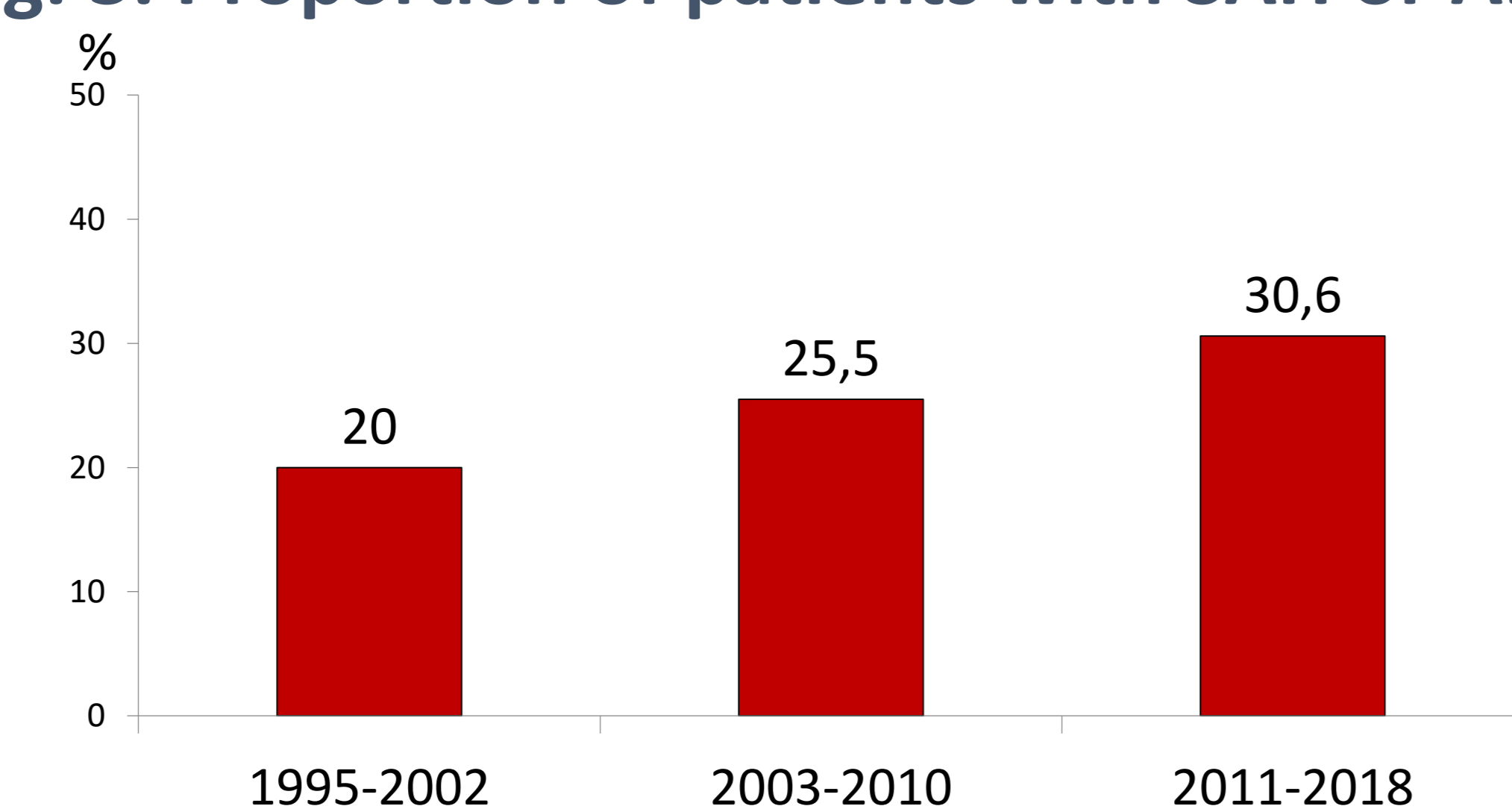


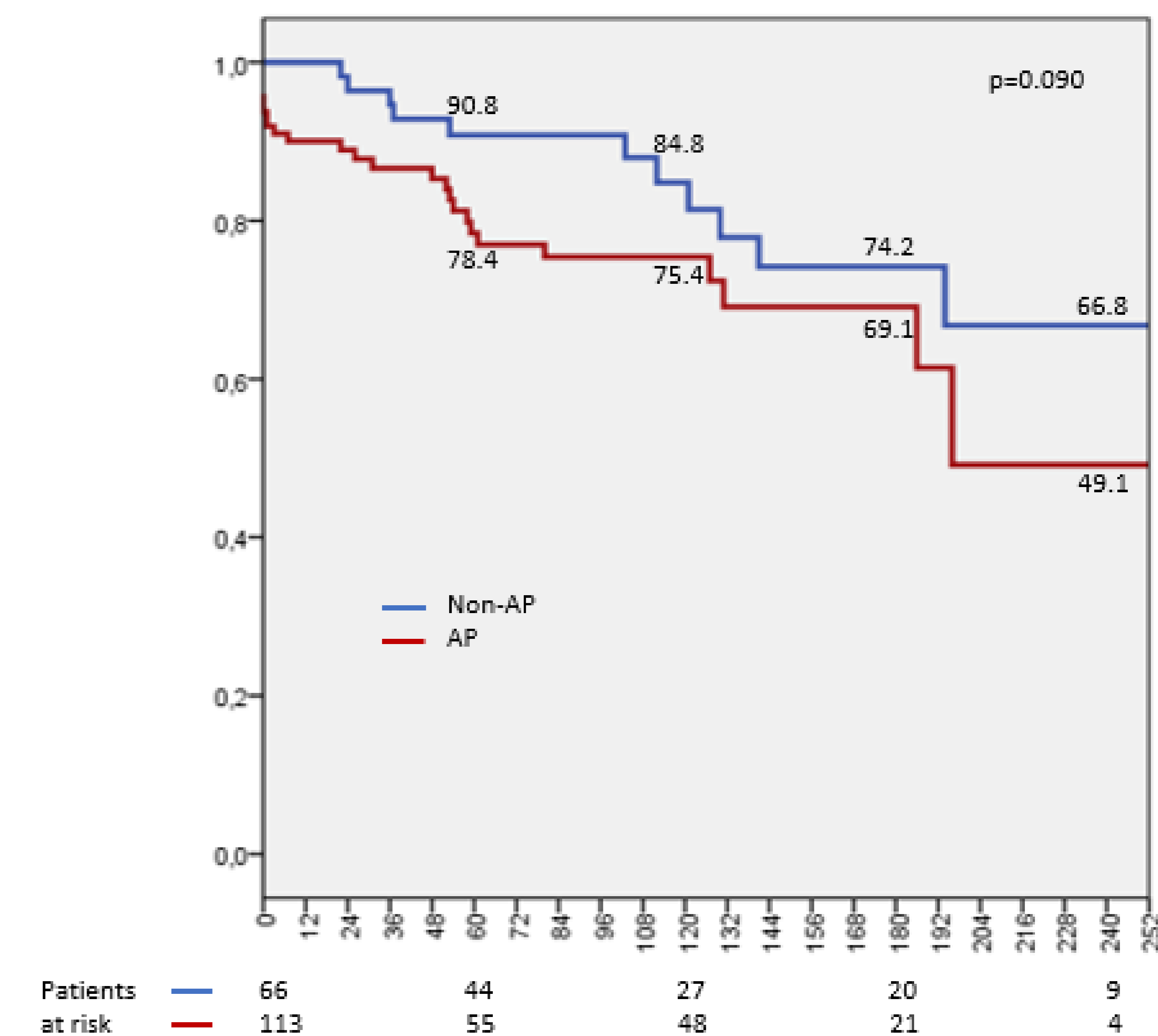
Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients with and without acute presentation

Variable	Group AP (n=113)	Group non-AP (n=66)	p
Age (years), mean	55.0 (45.0-65.0)	53.5 (36.7-64.5)	.28
Female gender, n (%)	81 (71.6)	53 (80.3)	.20
Other autoimmune diseases, n (%)	29 (25.6)	25 (37.8)	.086
Negative autoantibodies, n (%)	21 (18.6)	5 (7.2)	.007
IgG levels, mean (g/L)	19	18	.44
Atypical histology, n (%)	36 (31.5)	6 (7.8)	.001
≥6 Simplified crit., n (%)	68 (60)	46 (69)	.31

Table 2. Evolution throughout the follow-up of patients with and without acute presentation

Variable	Group AP (n=113)	Group non-AP (n=66)	p
≥1 flares in the follow-up, n (%)	45 (39.8)	19 (28.7)	.13
Need for a 2 nd line of immunosuppressive treatment, n (%)	18 (15.9)	3 (4.5)	.022

Fig. 4. Free transplant survival of patients with and without acute presentation



CONCLUSIONS

In our area, acute presentation of AIH is increasing. Nearly one third of AIH with AP develop severe acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. Patients with AP are frequently seronegative and with atypical histology, which makes diagnosis difficult. Response to standard treatment and free transplant survival are lower in patients with HAI with AP.

CONTACT INFORMATION

anagomezoutomuro@gmail.com