Appendix

Appendix 1: Histological method

4μm sections were cut from paraffin blocks and stained with HES (Haematoxylin, Eosin and Saffron), PicroSirius and Perls. An immunohistochemical study was performed on deparaffinized sections using anti-CK19, anti-HHV6, CD8, and CD68 antibodies with the LSAB method in Bond Leica immunostainer, supplemented by in situ hybridization with the EBER probe (Epstein–Barr virus-encoded small RNAs). All liver specimens were reviewed by 2 pathologists, who applied a semi-quantitative assessment using the following criteria: portal fibrosis (0-3, according to the METAVIR scoring system); peri-sinusoidal fibrosis (0-4, according to fibrosis staging under the Histological Scoring System for Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease); portal inflammation (activated lymphocytes: 0-3; eosinophils: 0-3; plasma cells: presence/absence); periportal piecemeal necrosis (0-3, according to the METAVIR scoring system); cholangitis (0-2); steatosis (percentage of hepatocytes); lobular necrosis (spotty or diffuse, and if diffuse, topography and percentage area); lobular inflammation (global: 0-3; activated lymphocytes: 0-3; eosinophils: 0-3); hepatocyte mitotic count (per 10 high-power fields); Kupffer cell hyperplasia (0-3); erythrophagocytosis (presence/absence); presence of iron (0-2) and cholestasis (0-2) (30).