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Introduction to a New Series: Liver Disorders



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The incidence of newly diagnosed liver disease in the United States is estimated to be 72 per 100,000 population, with hepatitis B and C, alcohol, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease being the most common etiologies.¹ Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was ranked as the tenth leading cause of death in the United States in 1998,² and data show that this statistic has remained essentially the same over last 15 years.¹ Further the economic impact of liver disease is quite substantial, with chronic liver disease and viral hepatitis accounting for \$1.8 billion annually in inpatient costs. Further, hospitalizations for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease has increased 97% since 2000.^{3,4}

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The substantial burden of liver disease necessitates that healthcare providers treat liver disease proactively. It should be a higher public health priority, and use of non-invasive tests to screen for early stages of fibrosis should be performed.⁵ New therapies for hepatitis B and C as well as advances in liver transplantation have provided a significant improvement in the short- and long-term management of liver diseases.

The goal of this series is to provide a detailed review of the liver and biliary system, which healthcare professionals may use as a reference point in their clinical practice as well as research initiatives. This series will review liver diseases at large, with a focus on fibrogenesis, non alcoholic fatty liver disease, HIV and the liver, and transplantation in patients with hepatitis B or C or HIV infection. Specifically, the article topics included in this series are:

- Assessment of liver function tests
- Hematological disorders of the liver

- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Hepatic fibrogenesis
- Hepatic failure
- Hepatic encephalopathy
- Portal hypertension
- Ascities
- Jaundice and cholestasis
- Primary biliary cirrhosis
- HIV and liver disease
- Autoimmune hepatitis and overlap syndrome
- Drug-induced liver disease
- Inherited metabolic disease
- Nonalcoholic liver disease and nutrition
- Alcoholic liver disease
- Liver diseases and pregnancy
- Liver in systemic diseases
- Extrahepatic manifestations of liver disease
- Space-occupying lesions/diagnostic approach
- Primary malignant neoplasms of the liver
- Hepatic transplantation ■

References

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