

# Medical Liver

## Steatosis/Steatohepatitis

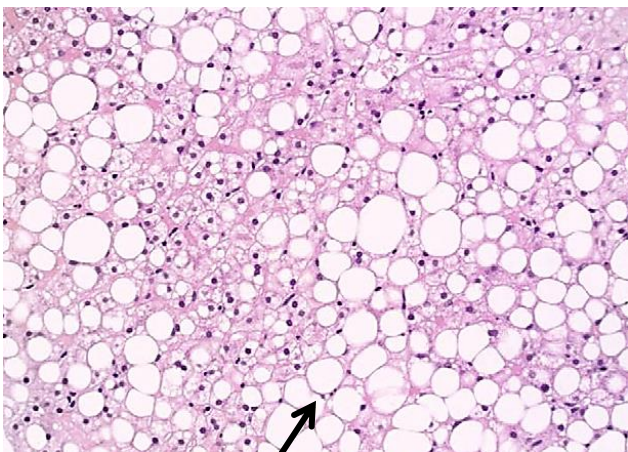
**Steatosis** = Abnormal accumulation of fat within hepatocytes

**Steatohepatitis** = Fat + inflammation, acidophil bodies, and/or ballooning (active lobular injury)

These are part of the same disease process, and both lead to fibrosis, but steatohepatitis leads to fibrosis faster (essentially a difference in grading activity).

Portal infiltrates may be present, but are usually mild. If they are severe, consider additional Dx's.

**Ballooned hepatocytes:** Enlarged (such that they "stand out") with no fat and thin, wispy cytoplasm. Most often Zone 3.



### Macrovesicular

Represents a change in lipid metabolism

Predominant pattern = Nucleus pushed to the side by usually a single medium to large sized droplet

Ok to have smaller droplets mixed in also

### Microvesicular

Usually represents mitochondrial injury

Nucleus remains central with innumerable, fine fat droplets

Only use this term if it is a **diffuse** change (not focal, or in a mostly macrovesicular case)

## Quantifying Fat

Estimate the % of cells with macrovesicular steatosis

Average over the entire specimen

Report rounded to the nearest 10%

Often found in zone 3 first.

Amount of Fat	Grade
<5%	Normal
5-33%	Mild
34-66%	Moderate
>67%	Severe

## Fibrosis

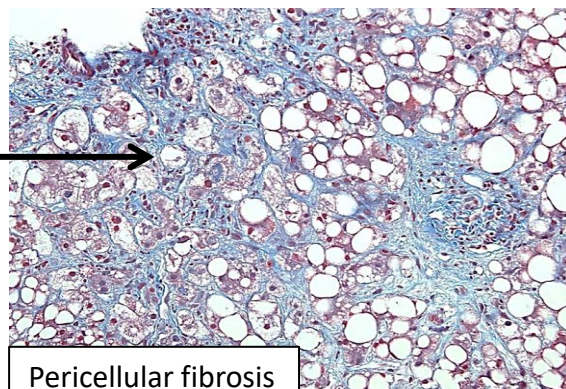
Fatty liver disease causes pericellular, pericentral fibrosis first (where the most fat is)

→ Progresses to portal and pericentral fibrosis

→ Bridging fibrosis

→ Cirrhosis

Once cirrhotic, there may be relatively little fat!



# Alcoholic Hepatitis

Hepatocyte injury and inflammation resulting from chronic alcohol consumption

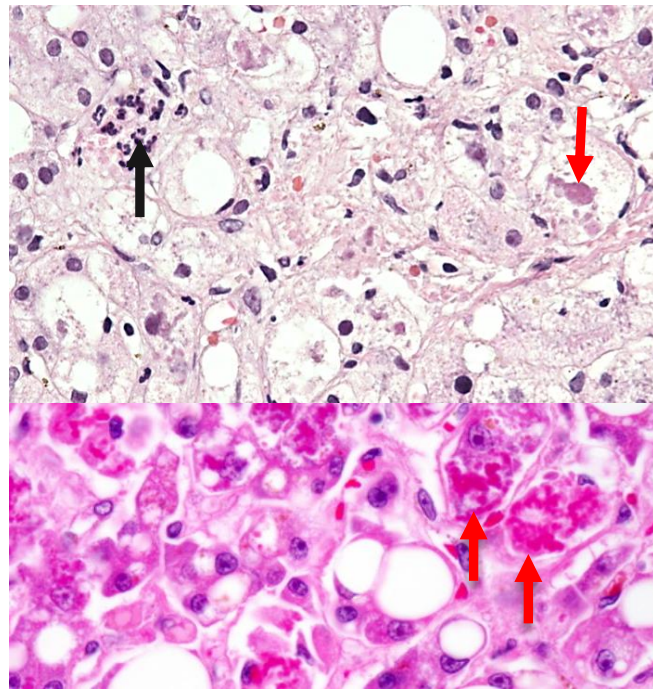
AST/ALT ratio typically >2

**Micro:** Macrovesicular Steatosis.

Findings that Favor EtOH (over NASH): *More* hepatocyte ballooning, *more* neutrophilic lobular inflammation (→), *More* Mallory-Denk bodies (→), lobular cholestasis, and *more*, *diffuse* pericellular fibrosis

Mallory-Denk Bodies = pink, ropey cytoplasmic inclusions = ubiquitinated cytokeatins. Cells also loose expression of CK8/18.

But Histology *can* be identical to NASH!



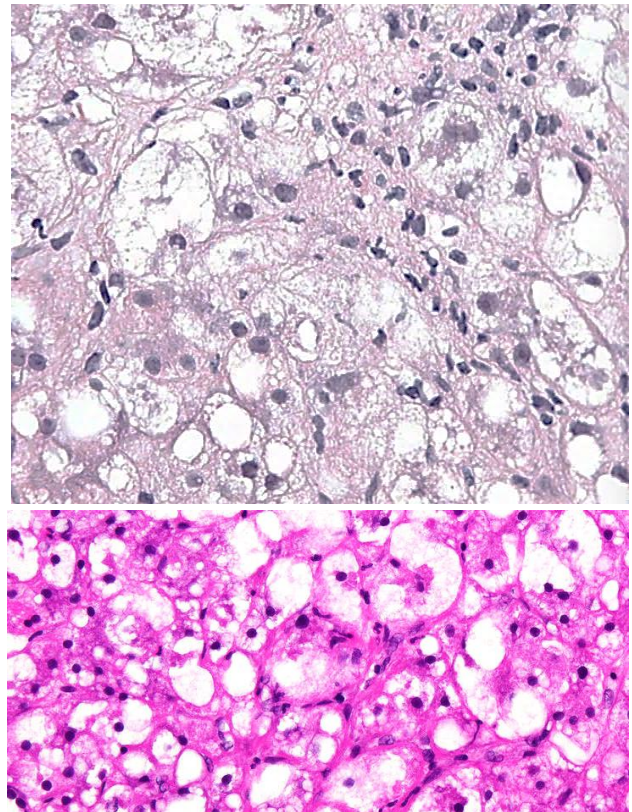
# Non-Alcoholic Steatohepattis (NASH)

Associated with metabolic syndrome, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension

**Micro:** Macrovesicular Steatosis, Ballooning, Lobular lymphs and Neuts (exception in pediatric patients, where inflammation is more portal), acidophil bodies, and Pericellular fibrosis. Sometimes adults have mild portal inflammation, mostly lymphs.

Grade/Stage usually using **NASH-CRN system:**

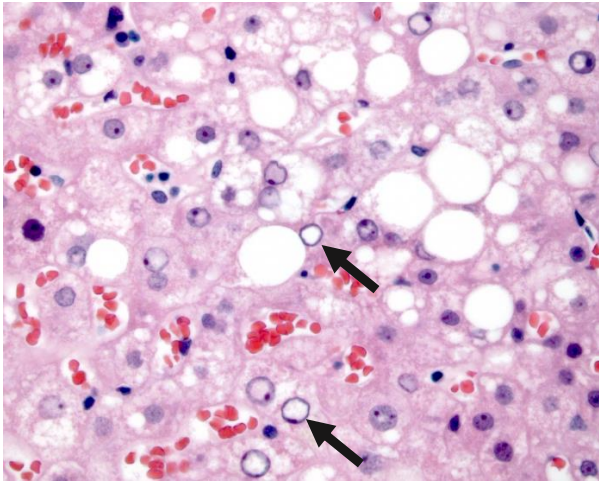
Fibrosis	
0	None
1a	Mild zone 3 sinusoidal fibrosis
1b	Moderate zone 3 sinusoidal fibrosis
1c	Portal fibrosis only
2	Zone 3 sinusoidal fibrosis and portal fibrosis
3	Bridging fibrosis
4	Cirrhosis



Steatosis	Lobular Inflammation	Hepatocellular Ballooning
0: <5%	0: None	0: None
1: 5-33%	1: <2 foci/20x field	1: Mild, few
2: 34-66%	2: 2-4 foci/20x field	2: Moderate-marked, many
3: >66%	3: >4 foci/20x field	

**Sum the individual components for a total grade (maximum of 8)**

## Wilson's Disease



Mutations of **copper transport** protein (*ATP7B* gene) results in inability to excrete copper in bile → accumulate copper in liver and other tissues

Variable presentation: Acute or chronic liver disease, neurologic/psychiatric findings, hemolytic anemia, ± Kayser-Fleischer rings

Labs: Low ceruloplasmin, Increased urine copper, AST/ALT ratio >2.2, Alk phos/T. Bili <4

**Micro**: Variable! Steatohepatitis, possible Malory-Denk bodies and glycogenated nuclei (→; common, non-specific); Later chronic hepatitis

When considering diagnosis → send block for copper quantification

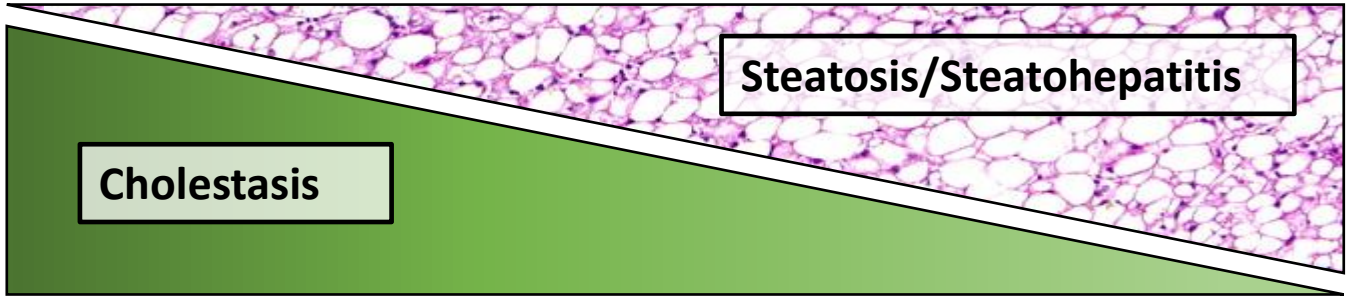
## Total Parental Nutrition

Variable steatohepatitis or cholestasis depending on age

Infant

Kids

Adult



## Other causes of Macrovesicular steatosis

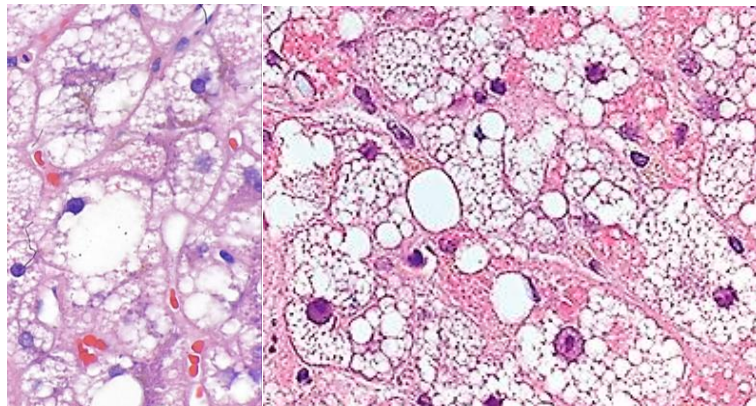
**Drugs** including: Amiodarone, Glucocorticoids, methotrexate, tamoxifen, and certain chemotherapeutic agents

Other conditions, including: **Malnutrition** (marasmus or kwashiorkor), **hormone alterations** (e.g., hypothyroidism, elevated cortisol, growth hormone deficiency), **cystic fibrosis**, and lipodystrophies.

## Microvesicular steatosis

Finely divided fat cells accumulate in cytoplasm as a result of **Mitochondrial damage**, which is often serious

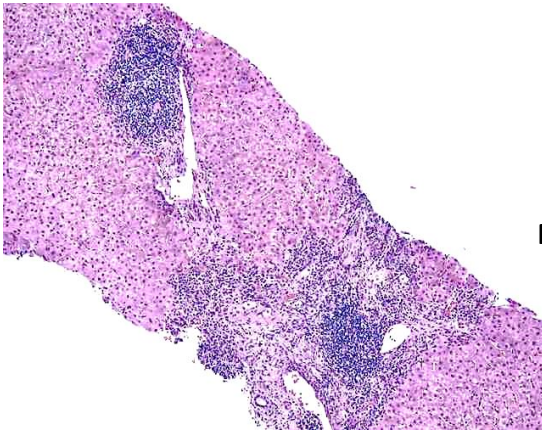
**DDX**: Reye's syndrome, inborn errors of metabolism, Drugs, Toxins, Acute fatty liver of pregnancy



# Portal Tract Chronic Inflammation

Basic DDX: viral, autoimmune, drug

## Chronic Viral Hepatitis C



~90% Develop chronic infection; Bloodborne  
Antibodies (anti-HCV) indicate exposure  
Detection of HCV RNA indicates virus persistence  
Newer Meds: Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir (Harvoni) → highly effective  
Slow, silent, progressive disease (over decades)  
→ cirrhosis (risk of HCC)

**Micro:** Variably dense portal lymphocytic infiltrates  
Periportal interface activity  
Scattered lobular collections of inflammatory cells  
± acidophil bodies  
Portal lymphoid aggregates  
Rare plasma cells allowed.

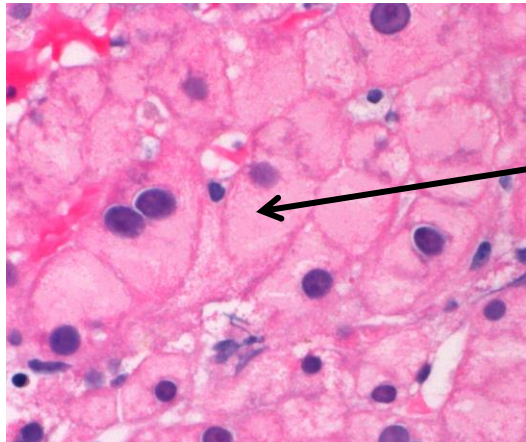
### Viral Hepatitis: Distinguishing Acute vs Chronic:

Often use clinical definition = elevated liver enzymes for ≥6 months.

Fibrosis also indicates chronic damage. Diffuse moderate lobulitis means acute or acute-on-chronic.

**Stage viral hepatitis using Batts-Ludwig, Ishak, Sheuer, or METAVR systems** (fairly similar)

## Chronic Viral Hepatitis B



~10% Develop chronic disease; Bloodborne

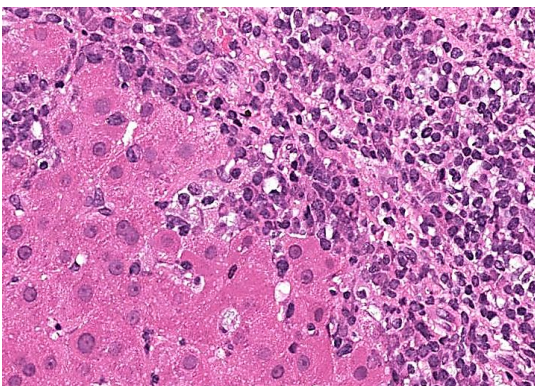
**Micro:** Portal chronic inflammatory infiltrates  
Interface activity, Lobular hepatitis  
Ground glass inclusions  
Sanded nuclei

IHC: HBsAg = infected, HBcAg = actively replicating

**Fibrosing Cholestatic Hep B:** Variant with more progressive/worse disease. Usu. Immunosuppressed state (e.g., post-transplant). Extensive cholestasis, bile ductular reaction, hepatocyte swelling, and fibrosis

**Hepatitis D:** Requires Hep B → acute-on-chronic hepatitis

## Autoimmune Hepatitis



Strong Female Predominance

Elevated AST/ALT (often marked)

Serology: + anti-Smooth Muscle Antibody, ANA, LKM-1,  
Elevated IgG

**Micro:** Dense portal infiltrates with marked interface activity → Lymphs & Plasma Cells  
Lobular injury → Scattered acidophil bodies  
Regenerative rosette formation

Can have "Overlap" with PBC

See Scoring Rubric on next page.

# Criteria for Autoimmune Hepatitis:

Finding	Cutoff	Points
Autoantibodies <i>(maximum 2 points!)</i>		
ANA or SMA	≥ 1:40	1
ANA or SMA	≥ 1:80	2
LKM	≥ 1:40	2
SLA	Positive	2
Serum IgG		
	> Upper limit of normal	1
	> 1.10 times the upper limit of normal	2
Histology		
	No evidence of hepatitis	Disqualifying <i>(Not AIH!)</i>
	Atypical for AIH	0
	Compatible with AIH	1
	Typical of AIH	2
Absence of viral hepatitis		
	Viral serology all negative	2



## Histology:

**Typical:** 1) Lymphoplasmacytic interface hepatitis extending into the lobule, 2) Regenerative rosette formation, 3) Emperipolesis

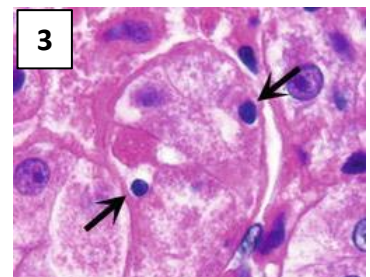
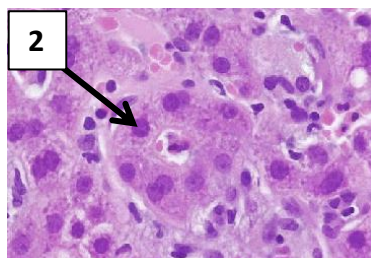
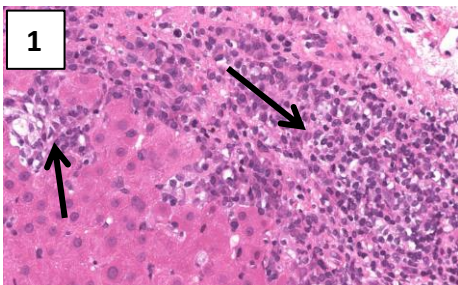
**Compatible:** Chronic hepatitis with lymphocytic infiltration without all the features considered typical

**Atypical:** Signs of another diagnosis, such as steatohepatitis

## Scoring:

≥6: Probable AIH

≥7: Definite AIH



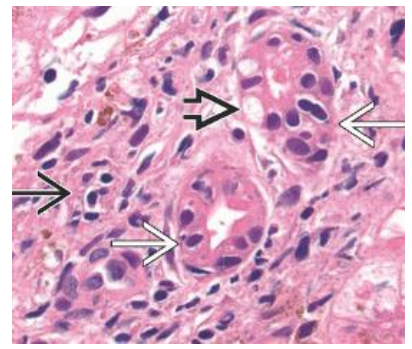
# Graft-vs-host Disease (GVHD)

Usually post-stem cell transplant (transplanted immunocompetent T-cells attack new host)

Involves skin, liver, GI tract → rash, ↑LFTs, diarrhea, and vomiting

**Micro:** Bile duct epithelial injury (lymphocytic inflammation, withering, drop out)

Mild portal inflammation; Possible endothelitis



## Allograft Rejection

Immune-mediated inflammation/damage in transplanted liver.

### T cell-mediated rejection

*Formerly: Acute Cellular Rejection*

**Micro: 1) Mixed portal tract inflammation** – mostly lymphs, including activated lymphs, with Eos, rare PMNs, etc..

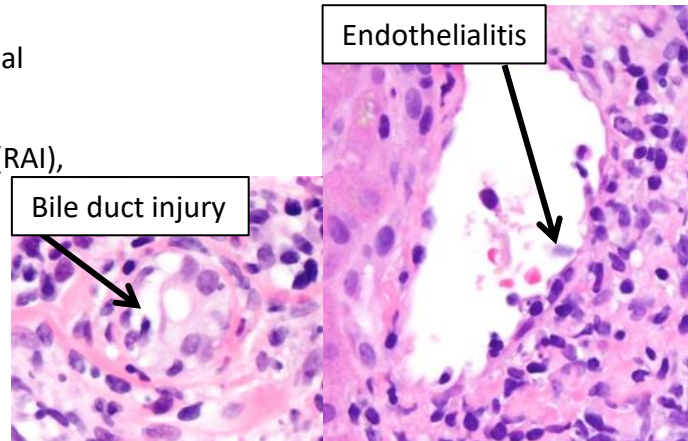
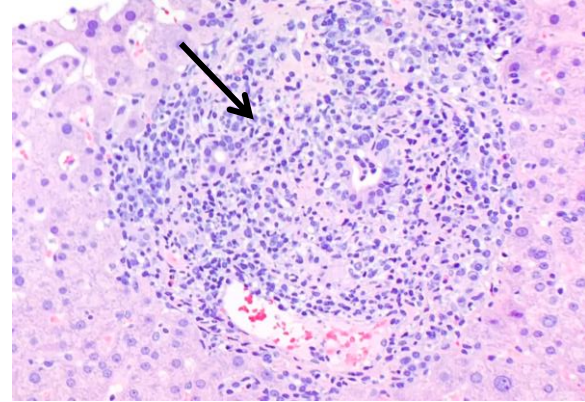
**2) Bile duct damage/inflammation** – intraepithelial lymphocytes in bile duct epithelium with injury such as apoptosis, disorder, vacuolization, and increased N:C ratio.

**3) Endothelialitis** – activated endothelial cells with lymphocytes adjacent and underneath, lifting the endothelial cells from the basement membrane or lymphocytes within the lumen, adherent to endothelial cells. Can be central (perivenular) or portal.

Can grade globally (below) or give quantitative score (RAI), but not usually required/done in daily practice.

Most common in months immediately after transplantation, but can happen years later. Present with sudden increase in LFTs.

Late onset → more mild, “muted” findings



T cell-mediated rejection Global assessment:

Grade	Findings
<b>Indeterminate</b>	Portal and/or perivenular inflammatory infiltrate that is related to an alloreaction, but shows insufficient tissue damage to meet criteria for a diagnosis of mild acute rejection
<b>Mild</b>	Rejection-type infiltrate in a minority of the triads or perivenular areas, that is generally mild, and mostly confined within the portal spaces for portal-based rejection and an absence of confluent necrosis/hepatocyte dropout for those presenting with isolated perivenular infiltrates.
<b>Moderate</b>	Rejection-type infiltrate, expanding most or all of portal tracts and/or perivenular areas with confluent necrosis/hepatocyte dropout limited to a minority of perivenular areas.
<b>Severe</b>	As above for moderate, with spillover into periportal areas and/or moderate-to-severe perivenular inflammation that extends into the hepatic parenchyma and is associated with perivenular hepatocyte necrosis involving a majority of perivenular areas

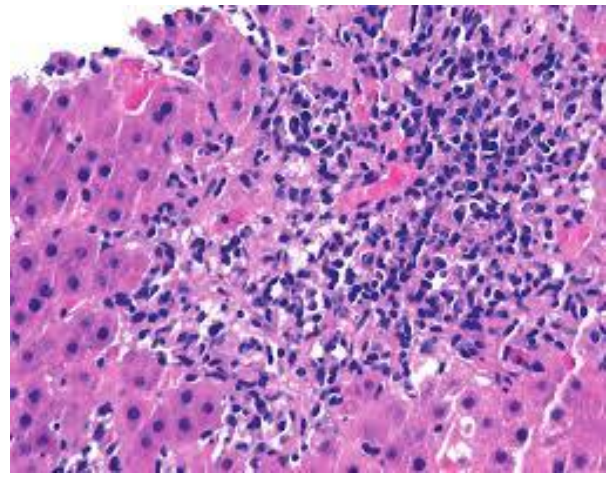
## Plasma cell-rich rejection

Formerly: *de novo* autoimmune hepatitis

Uncommon, late presenting.

**Micro: Portal and/or central plasma cell-rich (>30%) infiltrates** with easily recognizable periportal/interface and/or perivenular necro-inflammatory activity usually involving a majority of portal tracts and/or central veins  
**Lymphocytic cholangitis** (desired criteria, but not required)

**Note: Original disease MUST not be autoimmune hepatitis** (otherwise, classify as recurrent autoimmune hepatitis likely)



## Chronic rejection

From recurrent/persistent T cell mediated rejection.

**Micro:**

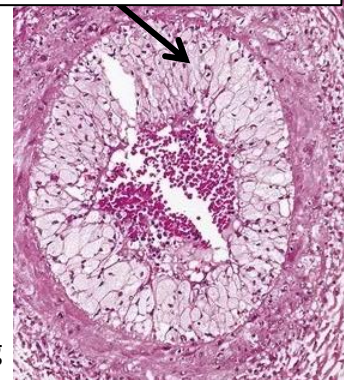
**Chronic Bile duct injury** → eventual loss/paucity of bile ducts with bile ducts present in <50% of tracts (and degenerative changes in remaining).  
CK7 or CK19 can help highlight bile ducts for identification/quantification.  
Often not much of a bile ductular reaction.

**Chronic vascular damage**

Lose hepatic arterioles (usually in a minority of portal tracts)  
Intimal damage with inflammation, foam cell arteriopathy, and luminal narrowing  
Can cause ischemic pericentral necrosis.

**Fibrosis**

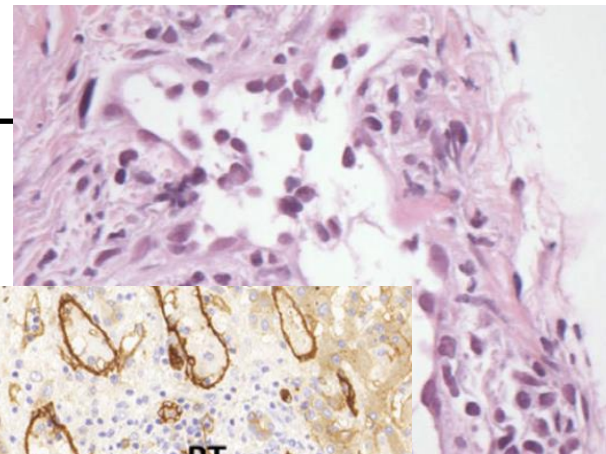
Foam cell arteriopathy



## Antibody-mediated rejection

**Diagnosis of “probable” AMR requires:**

- 1) Compatible histology:** Portal vascular dilation, endothelial hypertrophy, and microvasculitis, Often edematous portal tract and cholestasis.
- 2) C4d IHC** showing >50% staining of vein and capillaries;
- 3) Recent positive Serum Donor-specific Antibody (DSA)**
- 4) Exclusion of other etiologies**



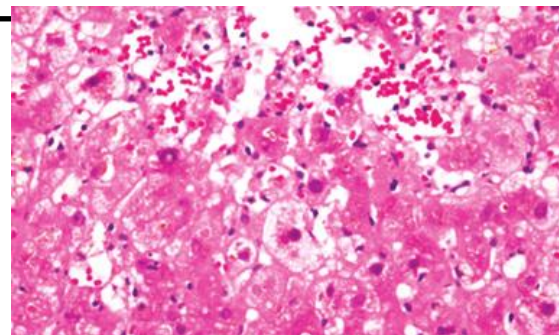
PT

C4d

## Ischemia Reperfusion Injury

Caused by ischemia during transplantation process  
Usually resolves in a few days.

**Micro:** Ballooning, small droplet steatosis. Pale appearance. Necrosis (esp. zone 3) and acidophil bodies. Variable PMNs. Cholestasis with possible bile ductular reaction.



# Lobular Injury

Indicates an **acute process** (too injurious to be chronic!)  
Often very high transaminases.

**Lobular disarray** (normal plate structure disrupted → chaotic architecture)

**Lobulitis** (lymphs attacking hepatocytes in lobule)

**Acidophil bodies** (apoptotic pink hepatocytes)

## Acute Viral Hepatitis

Usu. due to Hep. A or B

*(Hep A and E are spread by fecal-oral; “the vowels hit the bowels”)*

Diagnosis confirmed with serology or serum PCR.

**Micro:** Lobular damage and disarray

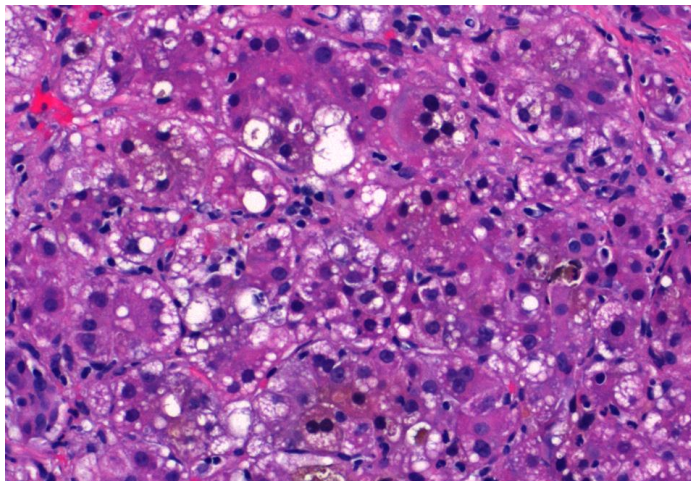
Diffuse lobular inflammation

Hepatocyte ballooning/swelling

Hepatocyte necrosis and regeneration

May see mild portal and periportal inflammation

NO fibrosis



## Drug reaction

2 chief mechanisms: **Intrinsic** (predictable, dose-dependent, less inflammation, more necrosis) vs. **Idiosyncratic** (majority of cases, not dose-dependent, more inflammation)

Herbal and botanical drugs are important but often overlooked cause of hepatotoxicity

**Very Diverse findings.** Can mimic many other disorders (e.g., Autoimmune hepatitis)

*A very helpful website to consult when you're wondering about a particular drug:*

<https://livertox.nih.gov/>

## Idiopathic Neonatal Hepatitis

**aka Neonatal giant cell hepatitis**

Neonatal jaundice with hepatomegaly, elevated T. Bili and Conj. Bili, variable AST/ALT

Diagnosis of exclusion (must exclude biliary atresia)

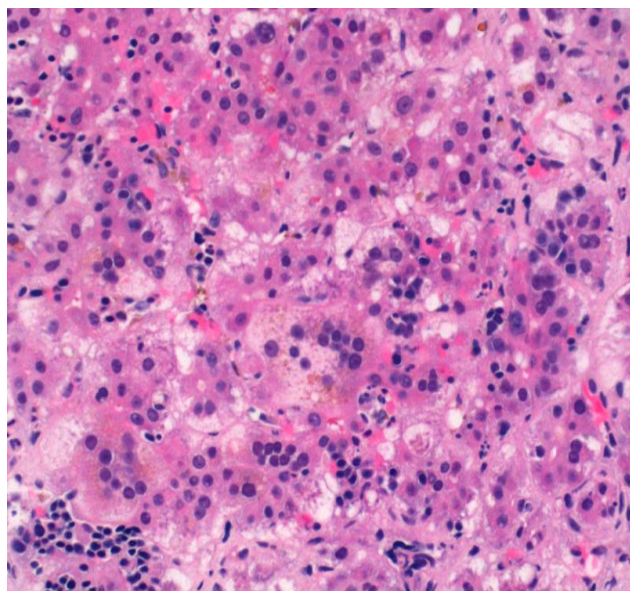
Loose association with hypopituitarism

**Micro:** Lobular disarray with prominent giant cell transformation

Absent to mild lobular inflammation (despite name)

Canalicular and hepatocellular cholestasis

Minimal portal tract changes and preserved bile ducts





# Cholestasis/Biliary

**Labs: Elevated Alkaline phosphatase, GGT, and serum bilirubin.**

Can highlight bile ducts with CK7 and CK19. Often see increased copper deposition in periportal hepatocytes with cholestasis.

## Large Duct Obstruction

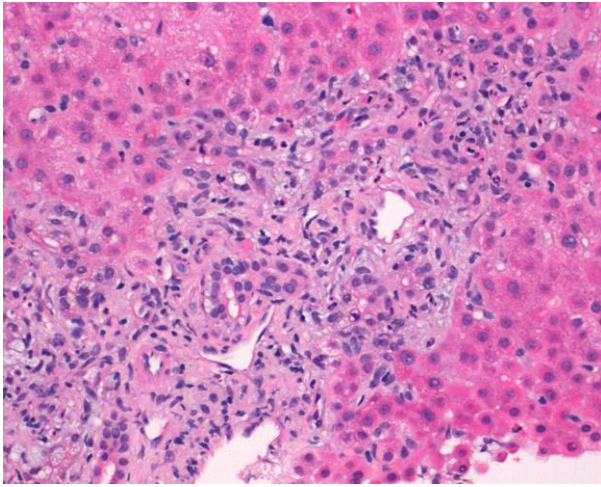
Mechanical blockage of bile ducts (by gallstones, stricture, or tumor) → usually diagnosed clinically

**Micro:** Portal tract edema, mixed inflammation with prominent neutrophils, and bile ductular reaction  
Canalicular and/or ductular cholestasis

*Additional considerations:*

Lots PMNs in duct epithelium or lumen → consider **ascending cholangitis**

Can see prominent bile ductular reaction with extensive **necrosis/hepatitis** as part of liver regeneration (so look for lobular injury!)



## Primary Biliary Cholangitis

*aka "PBC"*

*old name: "Primary Biliary Cirrhosis"*

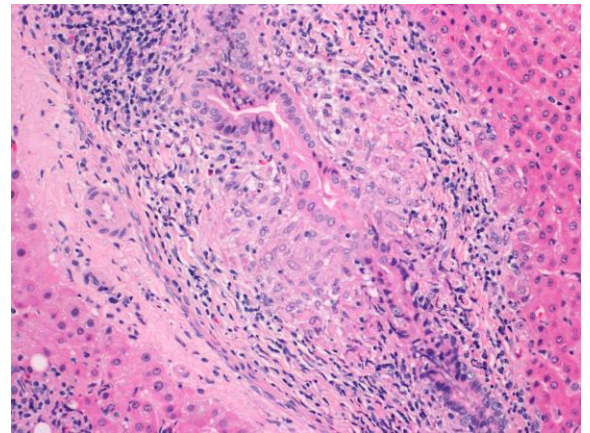
Autoimmune disease with destruction of intrahepatic bile ducts

Usu. Older women with +AMA serology (M2 subtype)

Micro: Moderate portal chronic inflammation.

"Florid duct lesion" → lymphocytic cholangitis with bile duct injury, +/- Granulomas

Often causes bile ductular reaction and bile duct paucity



## Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis

*aka "PSC"*

Progressive fibrosis and stricturing of bile ducts—predominantly seen extrahepatic, but also intrahepatic

Often diagnosed by cholangiography (multiple strictures)

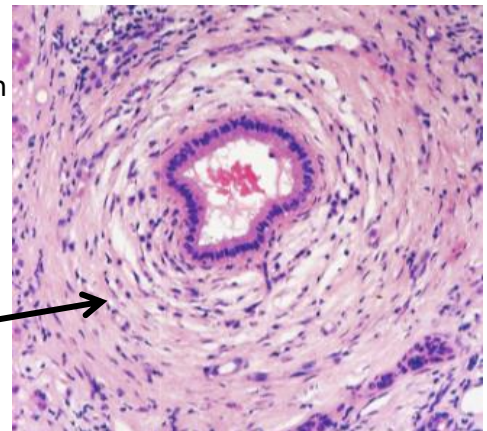
→ Increased risk of cholangiocarcinoma

Frequently young to middle-age men; Strong association with UC

**Micro:** Classically, Concentric fibrosis of ducts—"Onion Skin" (but not often seen on bx)

Biliary obstruction pattern (edema, PMNs, ductular reaction)

Eventual bile duct obliteration by fibrosis with ductopenia



## Biliary Atresia

Idiopathic prenatal destruction/fibrosis of extrahepatic bile ducts—Most common cause of pathologic infant jaundice. Usually present in first few weeks of life with jaundice and failure to thrive. Hepatobiliary (HIDA) scan demonstrates failure of excretion of radiotracer into duodenum. Surgical intervention with Kasai procedure and/or liver transplantation required.

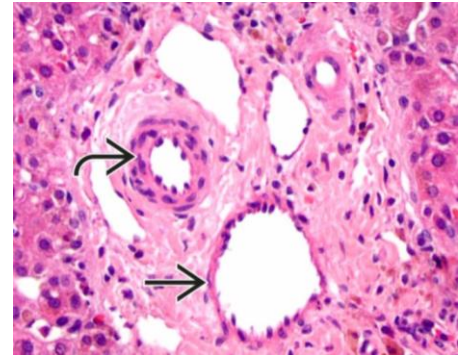
**Micro:** Large bile duct obstruction findings—(non-specific, requires clinical/radiographic correlation)

Also consider in pediatric cholestatic liver disease: Bile salt deficiency diseases (formerly, Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis, or, PFIC), and inherited defects in bilirubin metabolism (mostly tested for with send-out testing).

## Neonatal Paucity of Intrahepatic Bile Ducts

Can be Non-syndromic or Syndromic (Alagille syndrome—JAG1 mutations; associated with other abnormalities such as cardiac and skeletal)

**Micro:** Interlobular bile ducts absent in  $\geq 50\%$  of portal tracts. Can highlight with CK7. Ductular reaction may be present

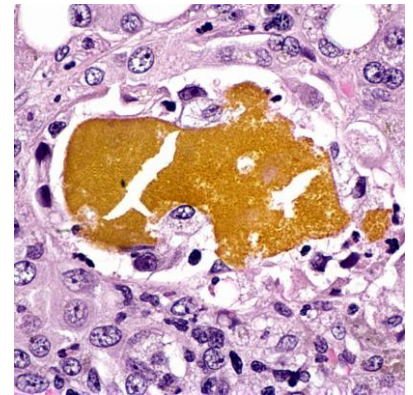


## Sepsis

Patients systemically ill, often with sepsis and/or bacteremia  
Often jaundiced

**Micro:** *Classically, Ductular cholestasis* (“*cholangitis lenta*”)  
*However, this is challenged by some as this seems to be common in any condition with cholestasis (including during the hepatic dysfunction seen with sepsis)*

Ductular reaction with inspissated bile and flattened, atrophic epithelium.



## Drug Reaction

Most common histologic pattern of drug-induced liver injury is cholestasis

Can have several patterns:

**Bland/Pure cholestasis:** Cholestasis with minimal inflammation (also see with systemic illness and pregnancy)

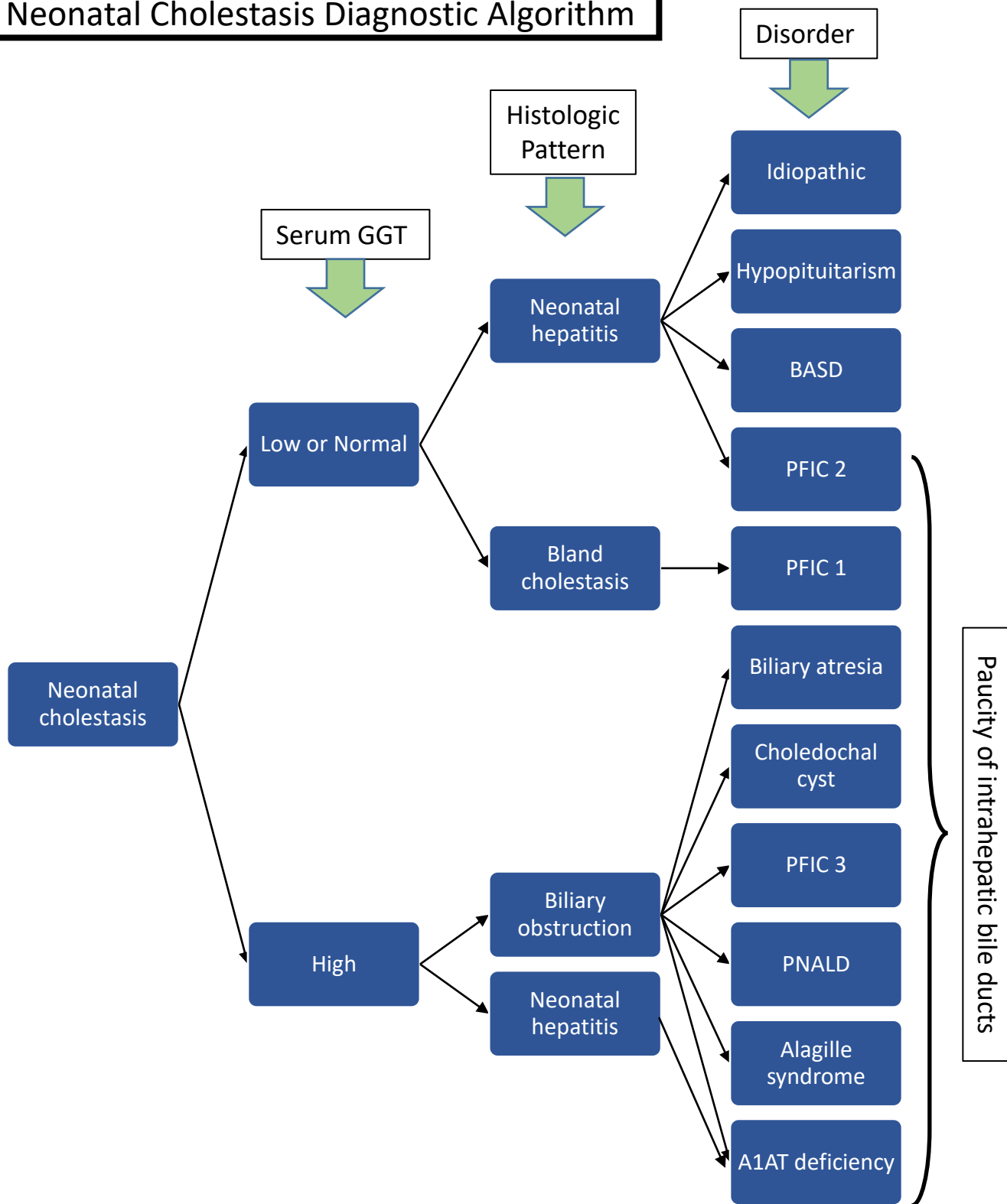
**Cholestatic hepatitis:** Cholestasis with inflammation and hepatocellular damage

**Prolonged cholestasis/ductopenia:** > 3 months,

**Sclerosing duct injury:** Fibrosis affecting large bile ducts (similar to PSC)

<https://livertox.nih.gov/>

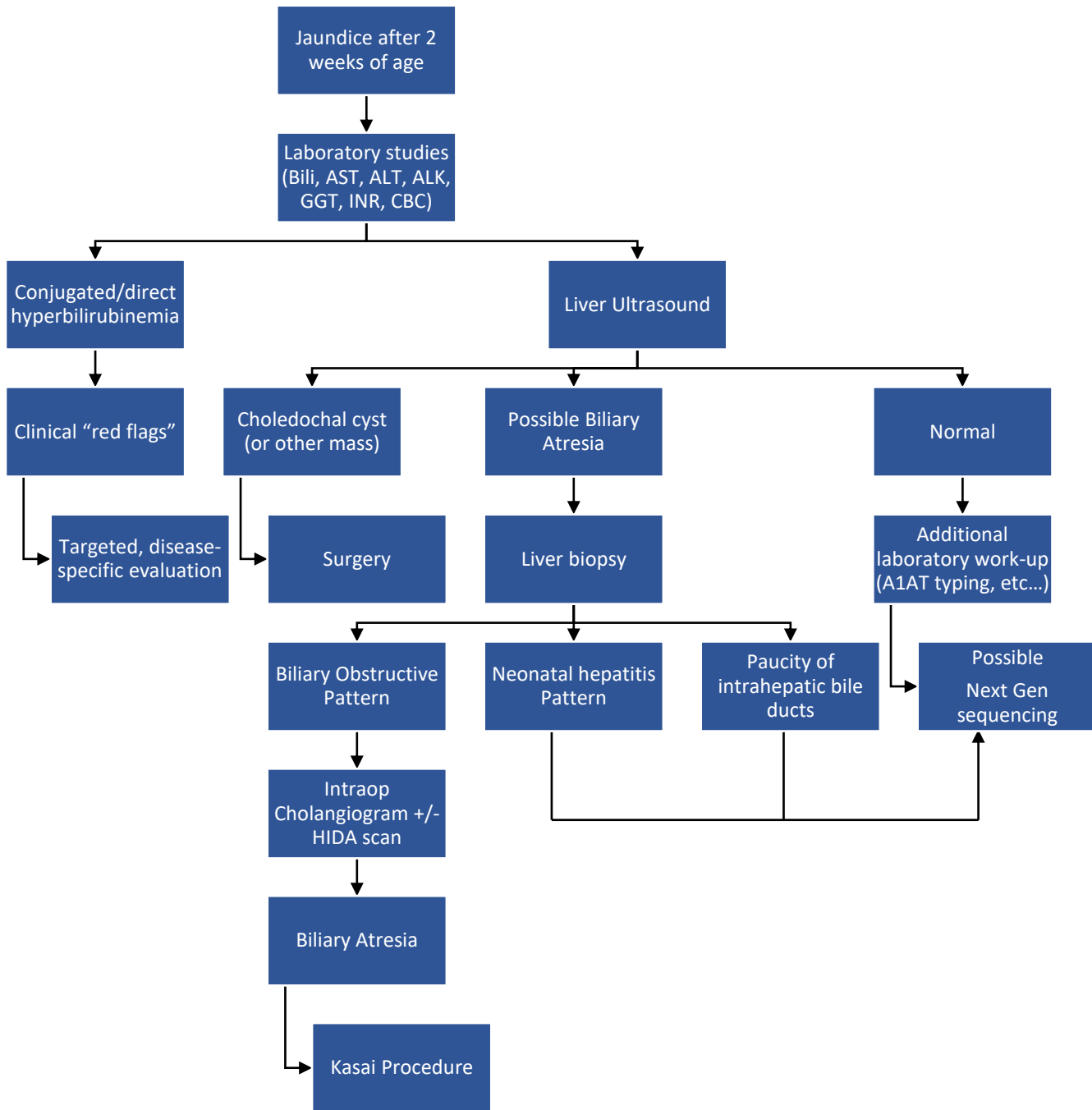
# Neonatal Cholestasis Diagnostic Algorithm



Most common causes of Neonatal Cholestasis:

- 1) Biliary atresia (BA)
- 2) Idiopathic Neonatal Hepatitis (INH)

# Clinical Neonatal Cholestasis Algorithm



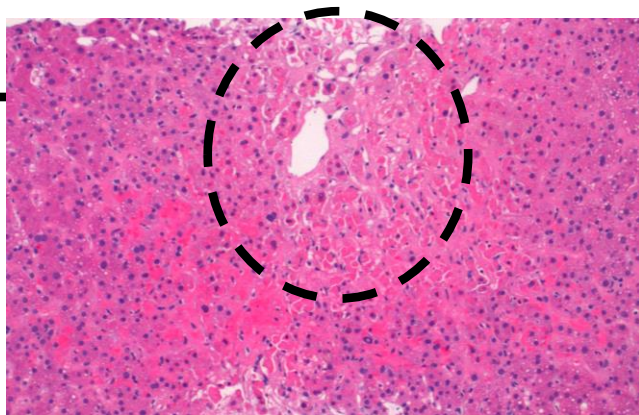
# Altered Blood Flow

## “Shock Liver”

Liver hypoperfusion of any cause  
Massive elevation in AST & ALT (thousands)

**Micro:** Central coagulative necrosis (zone 3)  
Collapse of reticulin plates. No inflammation.

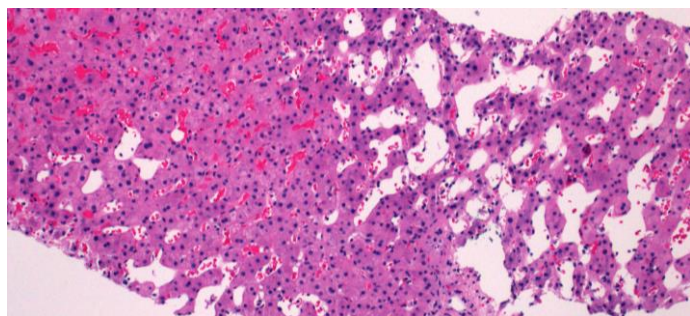
Other causes of bland Central Necrosis:  
Acetaminophen toxicity (indistinguishable histologically)



## Congestive Hepatopathy

Caused by hepatic venous outflow obstruction  
Can be due to RHF, Budd-Chiari, etc...  
Grossly: Nutmeg liver

**Micro:** Central zone sinusoidal dilatation,  
congestion, hepatic plate atrophy, and necrosis  
Chronic cases can lead to central vein and  
sinusoidal fibrosis → Cirrhosis



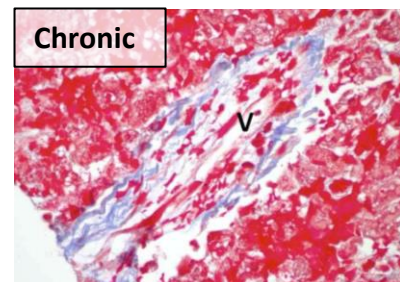
## Sinusoidal Obstruction Syndrome

*aka Veno-Occlusive Disease*

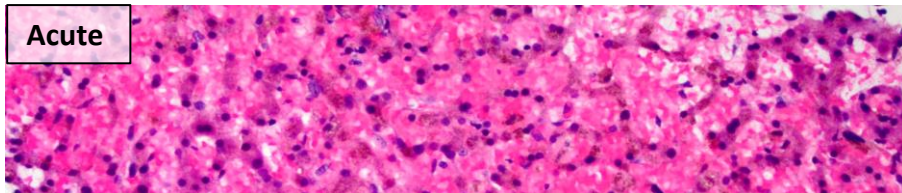
### Sinusoidal endothelial injury

Often due to chemotherapy or Stem Cell Transplantation

**Micro:** Acute: Sinusoidal dilation/congestion; Sinusoidal endothelial edema. Chronic: Central vein obliteration (best seen on trichrome) →



Acute



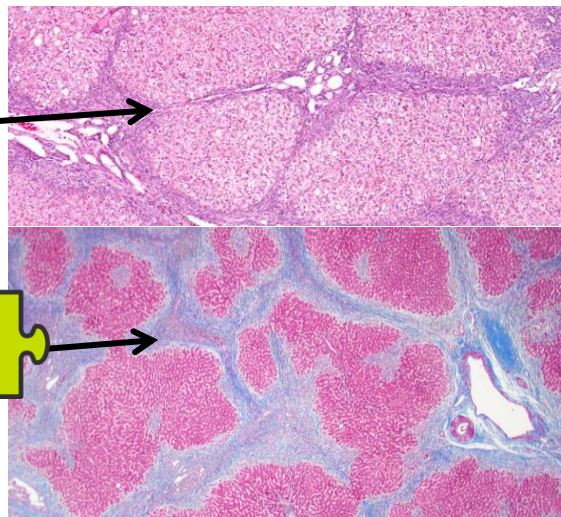
## Cirrhosis

**Common End-Stage** for many liver disorders

Regenerative nodules surrounded by fibrosis (want to see both for Dx)

**Special type:** “Biliary Cirrhosis” seen with long-standing cholestasis

Cholate stasis (ballooning, feathery degeneration at edges of nodules), “jigsaw” pattern of cirrhosis (instead of round nodules, biliary cirrhosis is classically irregular), copper deposition in zone 1, ductopenia, periductal fibrosis, bile infarcts.



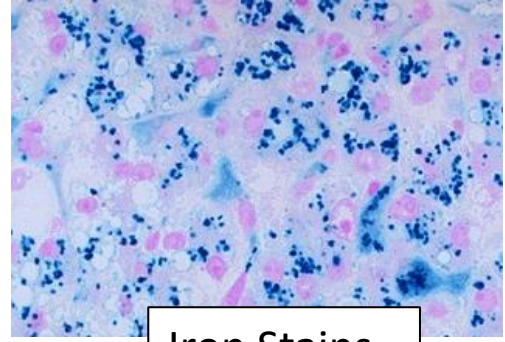
## Miscellaneous

### Iron Overload

*aka Hemosiderosis*

With excessive transfusions or iron supplementation

Iron accumulates in Kupffer cells (sinusoidal macrophages) first. When those are saturated, then it is deposited in hepatocytes



Iron Stains

### Hereditary Hemochromatosis

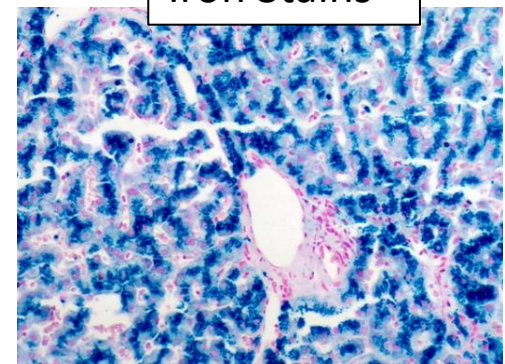
Inherited disorder of iron metabolism

HFE gene mutations cause increased iron absorption & storage

Iron accumulates first in periportal hepatocytes

→ progressively involves all zones & bile duct epithelium

Less Kupffer cell involvement (relatively)



### Glycogenic Hepatopathy

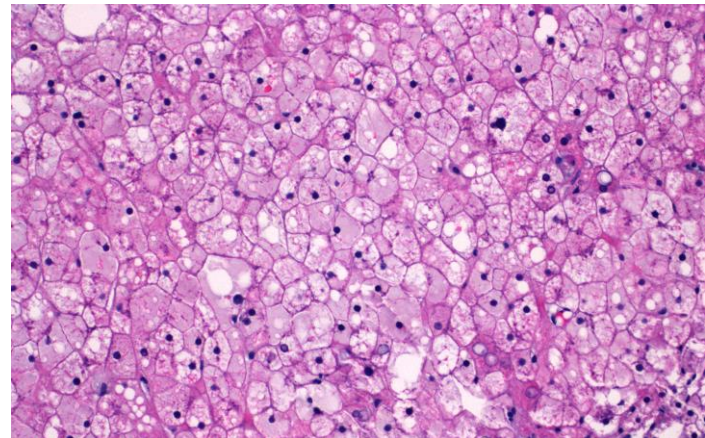
Poorly-controlled diabetes → abundant glycogen stores → Hepatomegaly and elevated LFTs

A component of Mauriac Syndrome (with delayed puberty and Cushingoid features)

**Micro:** Diffuse glycogenation of hepatocytes

Demonstrated by PAS stain (Diastase sensitive)

Absence of inflammation



### $\alpha$ 1-Antitrypsin Deficiency

Genetic disorder characterized by abnormal  $\alpha$ -1-antitrypsin protein synthesis (SERPINA1 gene mutation, autosomal recessive)

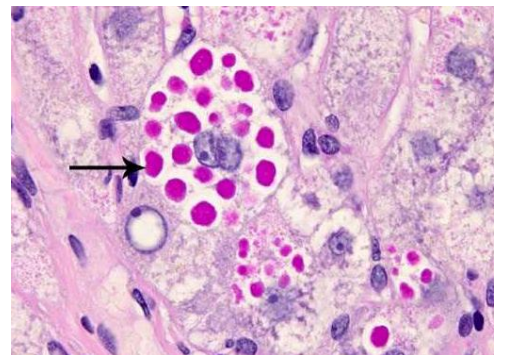
PiZZ phenotype accounts for most cases

→ Chronic liver disease and emphysema

**Micro:** Eosinophilic, PAS-D (+) globules within periportal hepatocytes are characteristic

Neonatal hepatitis features cholestasis and hepatocyte injury (too early for globule formation)

In endoplasmic reticulum by electron microscopy



## “Resolving Hepatitis”

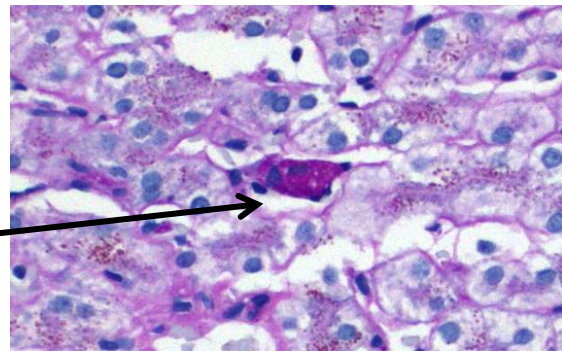
Can look “almost normal”  
Minimal/no lobulitis or portal inflammation

Mild lobular disarray (somewhat disorganized plates)

**Kupfer cell hypertrophy** (cleaning up debris)

Highlighted with a PASd stain

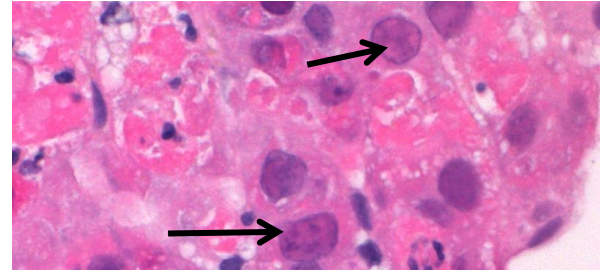
Most common causes: acute self-limited viral infection or idiosyncratic drug reaction



## Adenovirus/Herpes Hepatitis

Massive, bland azonal necrosis with characteristic viral **inclusions** at edge of necrosis.

Usu. Immunocompromised/transplanted. Poor prognosis.

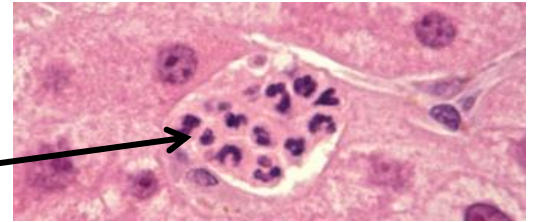


## CMV Hepatitis

Almost exclusively in immunocompromised individuals.

Inclusions can be subtle (so use stain liberally).

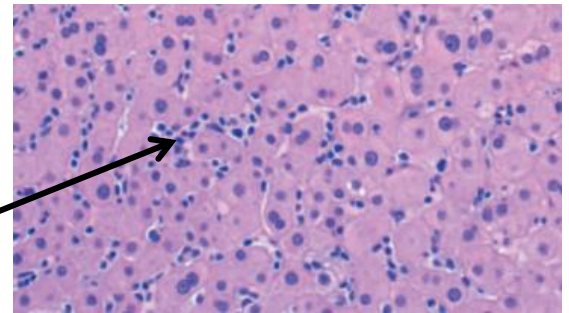
Classically: Neutrophilic microabscesses.



## EBV Hepatitis

Often looks like a nondescript hepatitis with mild to moderate portal and lobular inflammation (so often keep in DDX, esp. if young or immunocompromised!)

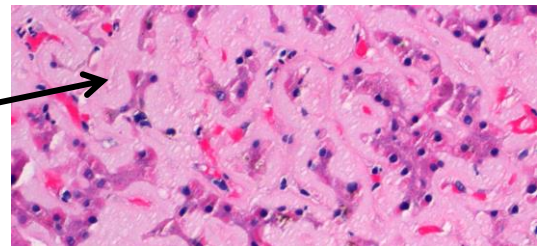
Classically: Lots of activated lymphocytes in sinuses (T cells)  
EBER highlights *rare* infected B cells



## Amyloid

Part of systemic illness, often plasma cell dyscrasias.  
Abundant amyloid deposited in sinuses.

Required: Apple-green birefringence on Congo Red stain

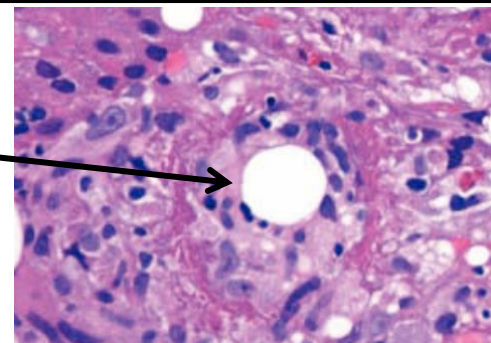


## Q Fever

Rickettsial disease that usually manifests as pneumonitis or carditis

Classic finding: **Fibrin Ring granulomas** (epithelioid granuloma with central lipid droplet surrounded by an eosinophilic fibrin ring that is trichrome positive)

*Note: These granulomas can also be seen with other infections and drugs (not super specific, just classic)!*



## Nodular Regenerative Hyperplasia

**Think: "Cirrhosis-like nodules, but without the fibrosis"**

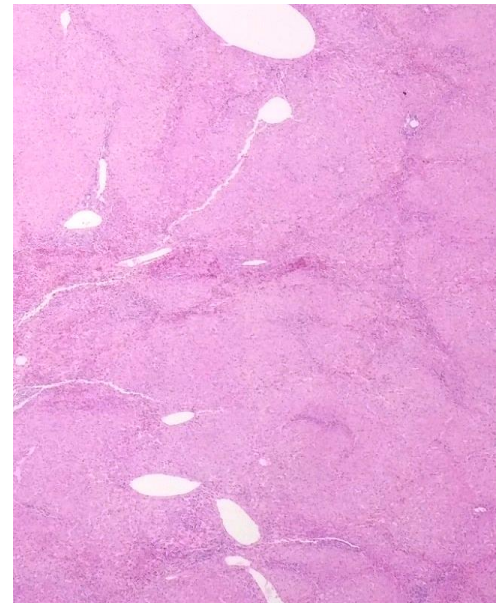
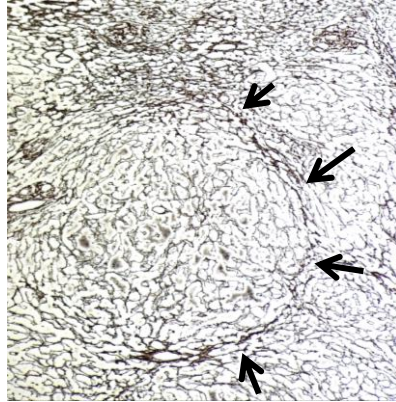
Multiple hyperplastic parenchymal nodules (with normal to enlarged hepatocytes) with intervening compressed/atrophied parenchyma

No significant fibrosis

Best seen on reticulin stain →

Results from changes in hepatic blood flow from obliteration of small portal veins → leads to localized atrophy → other areas grow to compensate.

Can cause portal hypertension.

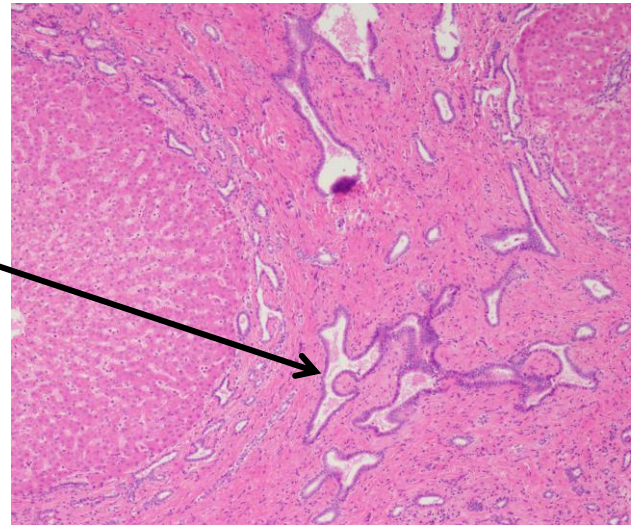


## Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis

Embryologic ductal plate malformation that leads to bridging fibrosis (cirrhosis) with prominent malformed ducts.

Ducts ectatic, anastomosing, and irregularly shaped.  
No significant inflammation.

Few/abnormal portal veins → Leads to portal hypertension.

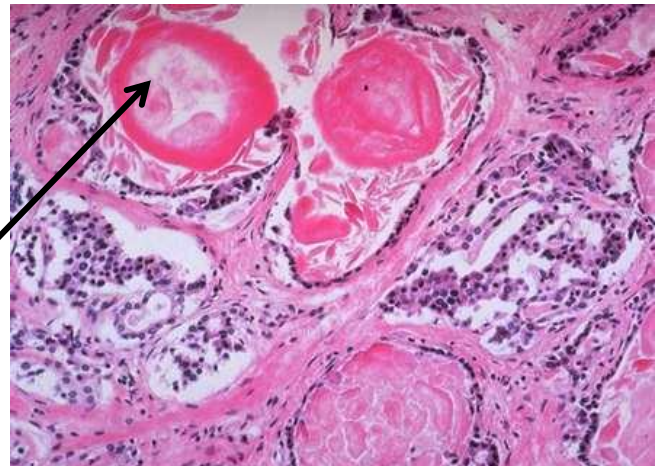


## Cystic Fibrosis

CFTR (Chloride ion channel) mutations result in exocrine gland malfunction.  
Autosomal recessive. Usually presents with respiratory problems, meconium ileus, or pancreatic insufficiency.

In liver, thick abnormal secretions are present in bile ducts (similar to in lungs and pancreas) → biliary obstruction → epithelial atrophy, bile ductular proliferation, inflammation → fibrosis → biliary cirrhosis. Also often steatohepatitis.

Secretions stain with **PAS-D**





# Laboratory Correlation

## Acute Hepatitis

*Marked Transaminitis (AST & ALT >5x normal)*

Non-Hepatotropic Virus (CMV, EBV, Adeno)

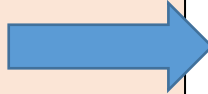
HAV & HEV: Fecal oral transmission; only acute

HBV: Ground Glass inclusions

AIH: Plasma cells

Adverse drug reaction

Massive altered hepatic blood flow (e.g., Shock)



## Chronic Hepatitis

*Mild Transaminitis (AST & ALT <5x normal)*

HBV: 5% develop chronic hepatitis

AIH: + ANA, ASMA, Elevated IgG; Interface necroinflammatory lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate

HCV: 80% develop chronic hepatitis; nodular aggregates of lymphocytes

Hereditary Hemochromatosis: + HFE genetic mutation  
Elevated Transferrin saturation and serum ferritin

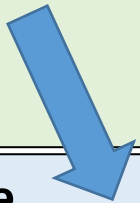
Wilson's: Increased liver copper quantification; +  
*ATP7B* gene; AST/ALT ratio >2.2, Alk. Phos./T. Bili <4

A1AT Deficiency: PiZZ phenotype, Hyaline globules in hepatocytes stain with PAS with diastase stain

Alcoholic: Clinical history of alcohol, AST:ALT > 2, more likely to show neutrophils and Mallory's hyaline

NASH: Diabetes or metabolic syndrome, Obesity

Drug reaction



## Cholestatic Hepatitis

*Elevated Alk Phos. & GGT; +/- Bili Jaundice*

Large duct obstruction

PBC: Female, + AMA, IgM, lymphocytic cholangitis and florid duct lesion

PSC: Male, IBD, diagnosed with cholangiography, concentric fibrosis around bile ducts, risk of cholangiocarcinoma

Drug reaction

## Cirrhosis/Liver Failure

*Synthetic Dysfunction (Elevated INR, Low Albumin, Low platelets)*

# (more) Differential Diagnoses

## **Acute Liver Failure**

*Histologically, typically lobulitis or necrosis patterns (as they are too injurious to be chronic)*

- Acetaminophen toxicity (40 – 50%)
- Drug reaction (10 – 20%)
- Acute viral hepatitis (10 – 20%)
- Idiopathic (20 – 30%)
- Rare causes: Wilson’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Budd-Chiari syndrome, Non-hepatotropic viruses

## **Almost Normal Liver**

*With Elevated LFTs*

- Systemic autoimmune conditions
- Vascular outflow obstruction
- Intermittent ischemia
- Metabolic syndrome (even if fat-free)
- Medication

*With Portal hypertension and/or ascites*

- Hepatoportal sclerosis
- Portal venopathy
- Peritoneal serositis (no liver disease)

## **Fatty Liver**

- Metabolic syndrome (NASH)
- Alcohol use

- Drug effect
- Wilson’s disease (and other genetic disorders)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Elevated cortisol

## **Bland Lobular Necrosis**

*Necrosis with NO (or little) associated inflammation*

*Due to direct injury/toxicity (not secondary immune damage)*

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Azonal
Iron Toxicity Phosphorous Toxicity Hepatitis A Some industrial chemicals	Poisons Beryllium Yellow fever	Acetaminophen Ischemia Some toxins	Herpes Adenovirus Varicella

## **Granulomas**

- Primary biliary cholangitis
- Sarcoidosis
- Drug effect
- Infection (Mycobacteria, fungal, Q fever, etc...)
- CVID and other systemic granulomatous diseases
- Paraneoplastic

## **Bland Lobular Cholestasis**

- Drug effect
- Severe systemic illness/sepsis
- Paraneoplastic syndrome

## **Ductopenia (adult)**

- Chronic obstruction
- Primary biliary cholangitis
- Chronic rejection
- GVHD
- Drug effect
- Idiopathic

## **Chronic Hepatitis Pattern**

- Viral Hepatitis
- Autoimmune hepatitis
- Drug effect

## **Microvesicular Steatosis**

- Medication (e.g., Reye's syndrome)
- Toxin (e.g., arsenic)
- Acute fatty liver of pregnancy
- Alcohol foamy degeneration
- Genetic diseases (e.g., Alper's syndrome)
- Infection (e.g., HDV + HBV)

## **Pediatric Cholestatic Disease**

- Biliary atresia (extrahepatic)
- Paucity of intrahepatic bile ducts
  - Non-syndromic vs Syndromic
- Neonatal giant cell hepatitis
- Sepsis
- TPN
- Bile salt deficiency (PFIC's)
- Genetic diseases (e.g., alpha-1 antitrypsin, Niemann-Pick, etc...)

## **Cystic Biliary Malformations**

- Congenital hepatic fibrosis
- Caroli syndrome/disease
- Autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease
- Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease

## **Portal Hypertension**

### ***Pre-hepatic***

- Portal vein thrombosis
- Portal vein stricture

### ***Hepatic***

- Cirrhosis
- Schistosomiasis

- Sarcoidosis
- Nodular regenerative hyperplasia
- Hepatoportal sclerosis
- Peliosis hepatitis
- Veno-occlusive disease

### ***Post-Hepatic***

- Hepatic vein thrombosis
- Heart failure

## **Sinusoidal Obstruction Syndrome**

- Bone marrow transplantation

- Chemotherapy medications
- Radiation therapy
- Herbal teas/remedies

## **Congestive Hepatopathy**

- Budd-Chiari syndrome
- Right-sided heart failure
- Compression of hepatic veins or IVC
- Medications (e.g., estrogen)

- Veno-occlusive disease
- Sickle cell anemia
- Hemophagocytosis syndrome
- Autoimmune diseases
- Paraneoplastic syndromes

## **Things that are easy to overlook**

- Glycogenopathy
- Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency
- Nodular regenerative hyperplasia
- Hepatoportal sclerosis
- Early bile duct loss
- Amyloid
- Stellate cell hyperplasia