

# Paediatric Gastroenterology



**Marrow ss**  
**Paediatrics 2024**



# Paediatrics Gastroenterology

## LIVER

- 1  **Acute Hepatitis**  
★ 4.4 59 Min video
- 2  **Diagnosis and Management of Autoimmune Hepatitis**  
★ 4.5 30 Min video
- 3  **Approach to Neonatal Cholestasis**  
★ 4.5 60 Min video
- 4  **Acute Liver Failure**  
★ 4.4 72 Min video
- 5  **Chronic Liver Disease**  
★ 4.4 67 Min video
- 6  **Portal Hypertension**  
★ 4.4 60 Min video
- 7  **Liver Transplantation: Indication, Evaluation & Contraindication**  
★ 3.9 72 Min video

## ESOPHAGUS

- 8  **Foreign Body and Corrosive Ingestion in Children**  
★ 4.4 55 Min video
- 9  **Achalasia Cardia & Other Oesophageal Motility Disorders**  
★ 4.1 45 Min video
- 10  **Eosinophilic GI Disorders**  
★ 4.2 41 Min video

## STOMACH

- 11  **GERD**  
★ 4.4 38 Min video
- 12  **Approach to Vomiting**  
★ 4.4 40 Min video
- 13  **Acid Peptic Disease**  
★ 4.4 34 Min video

- 14  **Functional Abdominal Disorders**  
★ 4.3 48 Min video

- 15  **Motility and it's Disorders**  
★ 4.1 56 Min video

## INTESTINES

- 16  **Approach to Chronic Diarrhoea**  
★ 4.4 75 Min video
- 17  **Gastrointestinal Bleeding**  
★ 4.2 54 Min video
- 18  **Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Crohn's Disease**  
★ 4.6 50 Min video
- 19  **Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Ulcerative Colitis**  
★ 4.6 34 Min video
- 20  **Constipation**  
★ 4.2 57 Min video

- 21  **Abdominal Tuberculosis**  
★ 4.4 46 Min video

- 22  **Celiac Disease**  
★ 4.5 52 Min video

- 23  **Obstructive Disorders**  
★ 4.3 55 Min video

## PANCREAS

- 24  **Acute Pancreatitis**  
★ 4.5 53 Min video
- 25  **Chronic Pancreatitis**  
★ 4.3 53 Min video

## MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

- 26  **Embryology Development And Congenital Disorders of GIT**  
★ 4.3 73 Min video



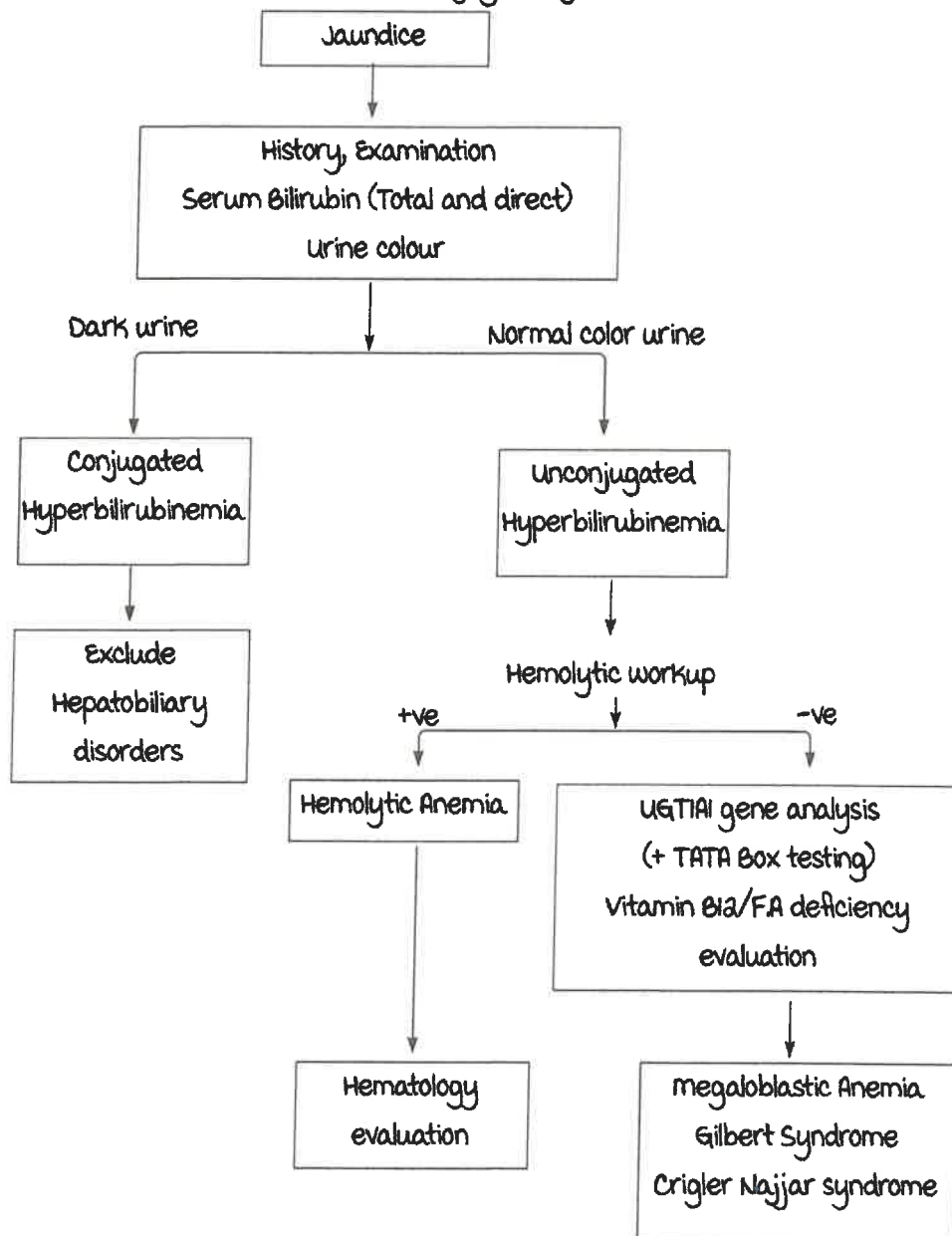
# ACUTE HEPATITIS

## Introduction

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### Clinical features :

- Jaundice (Icterus).
- Yellow discoloration of eyes, skin, & mucous membranes.
- Urine, stool colour :
  - Dark urine + Pale stools : Hepatic origin.
  - Normal urine colour : Unconjugated jaundice.



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Unconjugated bilirubinemia with negative hemolytic features :

- Gilbert syndrome :
  - Presents in older child.
  - Normal LFT.
  - Exacerbated in events of stress.
- Crigler Najjar syndrome :
  - Younger age group.
  - Type I and type 2.
  - may respond transiently to phenobarbital.
  - Definitive mx : Liver transplant.

Jaundice due to liver dysfunction :

Acute jaundice :

- Viral hepatitis.
- Drug induced.
- Systemic infections.
- Biliary sepsis (Cholangitis).

Chronic Liver disease :

- Wilson disease.
- Autoimmune liver disease.
- Viral hepatitis (B > C).
- Cholestatic disorders.
- Budd-Chiari syndrome.

Acute infective hepatitis :

| Hepatotropic                                                                                                                                                | Non Hepatotropic                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hepatitis A</li> <li>• Hepatitis B</li> <li>• Hepatitis C</li> <li>• Hepatitis D</li> <li>• Hepatitis E</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dengue</li> <li>• Parvovirus B19</li> <li>• Cytomegalovirus, Epstein Barr virus</li> <li>• Herpes viruses (HSV 1 &amp; 2)</li> <li>• Others : VZV, Adeno, HHV etc</li> </ul> |

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| Study                                           | HAV    | HEV   | HBV    | Co infection | Others           |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------------|------------------|
| Panda et al<br>Delhi, 1989<br>(n=456)           | 55.8 % | -     | 20.2 % | -            | 23.2 %<br>(NANB) |
| malathi et al<br>Chennai, 1998<br>(n=127)       | 38.6 % | 15.7% | 13.4 % | 21.3 %       | -                |
| Poddar et al,<br>Chandigarh,<br>2002<br>(n=172) | 64.5 % | 16.3% | 7.6 %  | 8 %          | -                |
| Srivastava et al,<br>Lucknow, 2012<br>(n=130)   | 53.1 % | 6.9%  | 13.8 % | 26.2 %       | -                |

**Summary :**

- Hepatitis A : 38-65 %.
- Hepatitis E : 7-16 %.
- Hepatitis B : 8-20 %.
- Coinfection : 8-26 % (Can also see enteric fever).
- Unknown : 23 % → 11 % → 3.5 % → 0 %.

**Note :**

- Always exclude HAV, HEV, HBV in all AVH cases.
- Anti HCV : Silent/chronic cases.
- Complete evaluation in all → Co-infection.
- Test for NHVs (Serology/PCR) :
  - If acute liver injury + negative classical serology.
  - Choose as per clinical picture.
- In case of acute hepatitis B ask for anti HBcIgm.

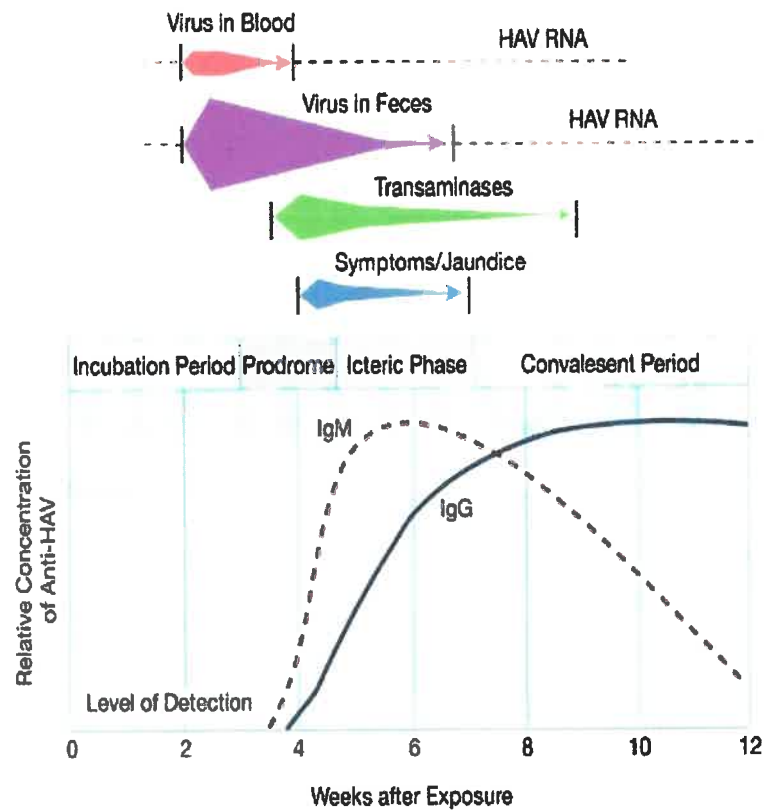
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## Viral hepatitis

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Typical hepatitis A :

### Hepatitis A course



Work up :

- LFT (Transaminases increases upto 10 times the normal).
- PT-INR
- USG abdomen.

Etiological work up :

All patients :

- IgM HAV.
- IgM HEV.
- HbsAg, IgM Anti Hbc.
- Anti HCV : mainly in chronic cases.

Selected patients/if above negative :

- IgM CMV/EBV/VZV/HSV/dengue/ parvo/ adeno virus.

### Differential diagnosis of acute jaundice :

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| With Persistent/Prolonged Fever<br>(after Jaundice appears)                                                                                                 | Without Fever                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• malaria/Typhoid/Leptospirosis</li> <li>• Biliary sepsis (Cholangitis)</li> <li>• Liver Abscess (Rarely)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilson disease</li> <li>• Autoimmune Liver Disease</li> <li>• Drugs/Toxins :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ATT drugs</li> <li>- Herbal medicines</li> <li>- Paracetamol</li> <li>- Valproate/Other Antiepileptics</li> <li>- Amox-Clavulanic Acid</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

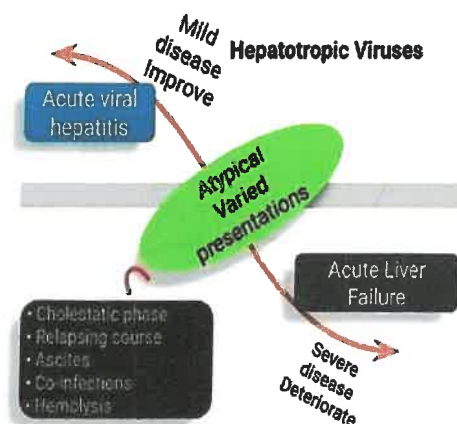
### Spectrum of hepatitis A :

#### Complicated :

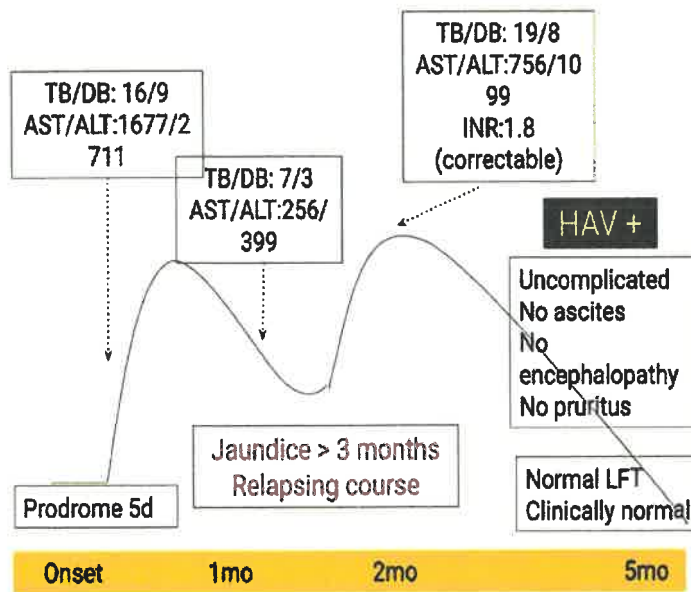
- Hyperacute liver failure.
- Acute liver failure.
- Late onset hepatic failure.
- Acute on chronic liver failure.

#### Atypical (30%) :

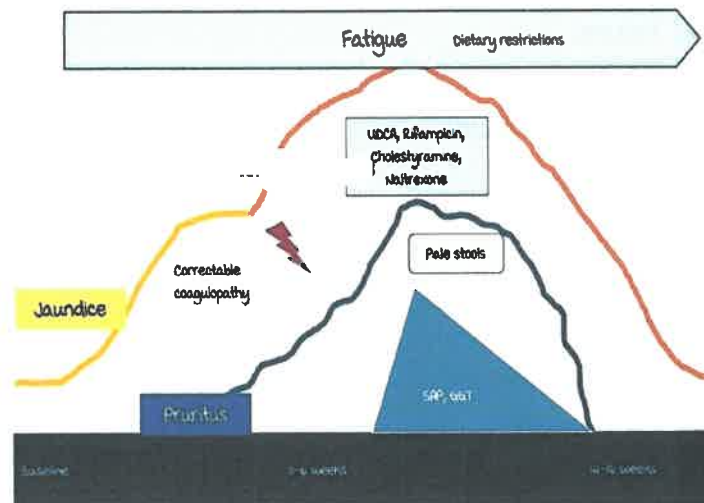
- Hepatic :
  - Prolonged cholestasis.
  - Relapsing hepatitis.
  - Ascitic form.
  - Autoimmune trigger.
- Extra-hepatic
  - Intravascular hemolysis, aplastic anemia.
  - Immune thrombocytopenia.
  - HLH, Guillian-Barre syndrome.
  - Transverse myelitis.
  - Glomerulonephritis.
  - Myocarditis, myositis.



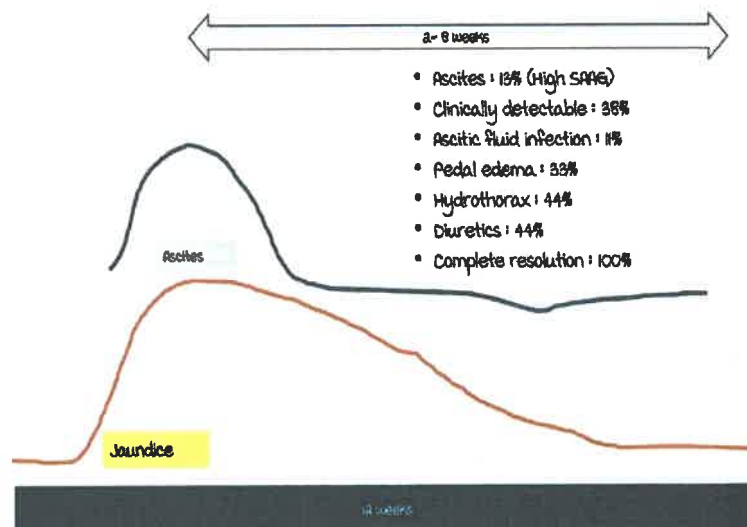
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Prolonged cholestasis :



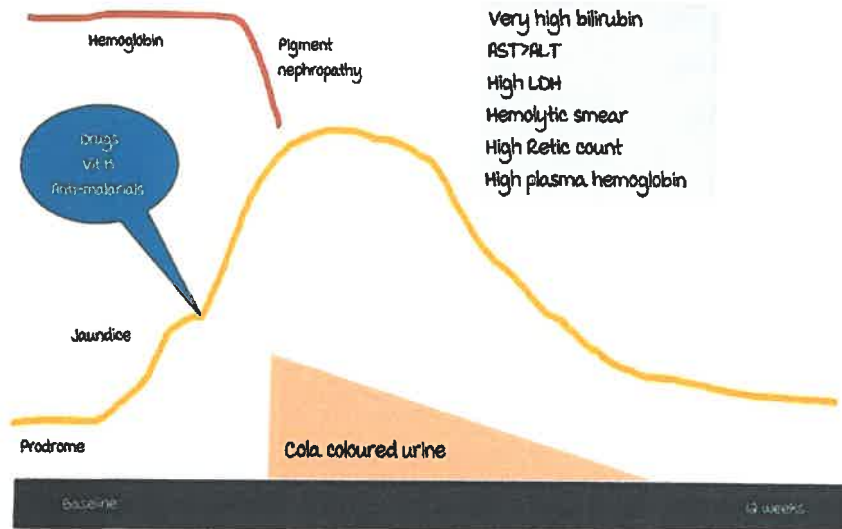
AVH with ascitis :



Late onset hepatic failure : 5 - 12 weeks.

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### Intravascular hemolysis :



### Causes :

- G-6-PD deficiency : 36%.
- HAV associated autoimmune hemolysis.
- Presenting feature in 6.7% cases of Wilson disease.
- In all Wilson disease : 22%.
- Wilson with ALF : 68%.
- Autoimmune hemolysis in AIH : 35%.

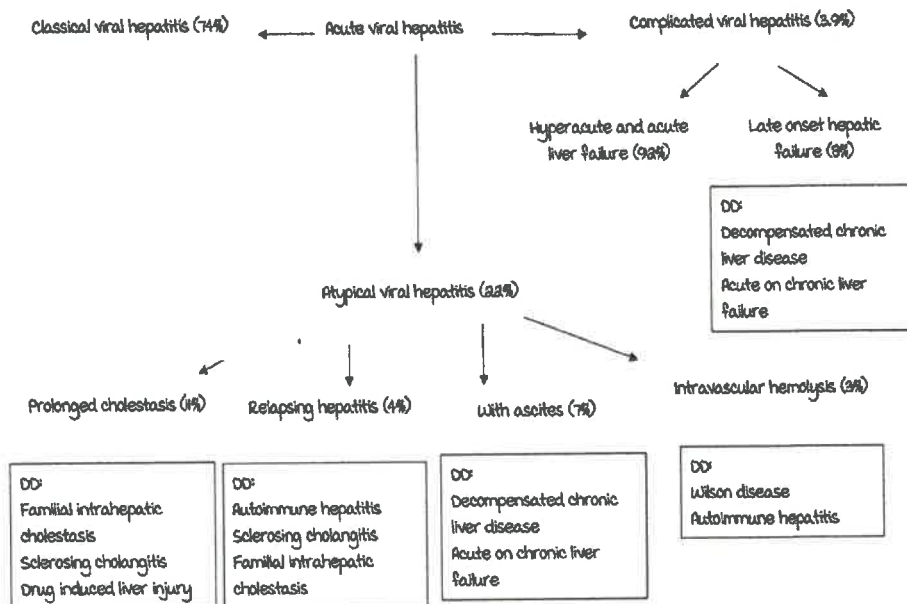
### Hematological manifestations :

- Aplastic anemia: 5-11% hepatitis asso aplastic anemia.
- HAV : <3% cases.
- Hepatitis to aplastic anemia: 62 days.
- Adolescent males.
- CD8 T cell mediated Bm suppression.
- Good outcome with Bm transplantation.
- Anti-thymocyte globulin, Cyclosporin.
- HLH.
- Immune thrombocytopenia.
- IgG glycoprotein IIb/IIIa.
- Thrombocytopenia : 2.6%.
- Leukopenia : 16%.

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Other atypical manifestations :

- Guillian-Barre syndrome.
- mononeuritis multiplex.
- Transverse myelitis.
- myasthenia gravis.
- Cardiomyopathy.
- myositis.
- Acute pancreatitis.
- Glomerulonephritis.
- Cryoglobulinemic vasculitis.
- Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome.
- Systemic lupus erythematosus.



Tropical infection &gt; viral hepatitis :

- High grade persistent fever (Look for HLH also).
- Associated with :
  - Severe anemia.
  - Conjunctival redness, oliguria.
  - Skin rash, plasma leak.
- Labs :
  - Thrombocytopenia.
  - minimal to mild icterus.
  - AST > ALT, < 400-500 IU/L.
  - High CPK, LDH.

**Case scenario :**

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- 15yr old female.
- Pain abdomen : Rt. hypochondrium-epigastrium, lasting for 3-4hrs.
- Recurrent jaundice with high coloured urine (7-10d).
- High fever with chills (Requiring antibiotics).
- Pale stools.
- Recurring from age 5 to age 15 : Consider cholangitis.

**Note :**

Charcot's triad : Jaundice with high colored urine, right hypochondrial pain, fever with chills.

**Differential diagnosis :**

- Choledochal cyst.
- CBD stones.
- Sclerosing cholangitis.
- Caroli's disease.
- Biliary ascariasis.

**General Treatment of AVH :**

- Reassurance.
- Normal diet, plenty of fluids.
- No medications needed (In majority).
- No restriction on diet.
- No bed rest needed.

**Don'ts :**

- Bland food : Restriction of salt, fat, spices, turmeric.
- Herbal medicine intake.
- Glucose water, sugarcane juice intake.

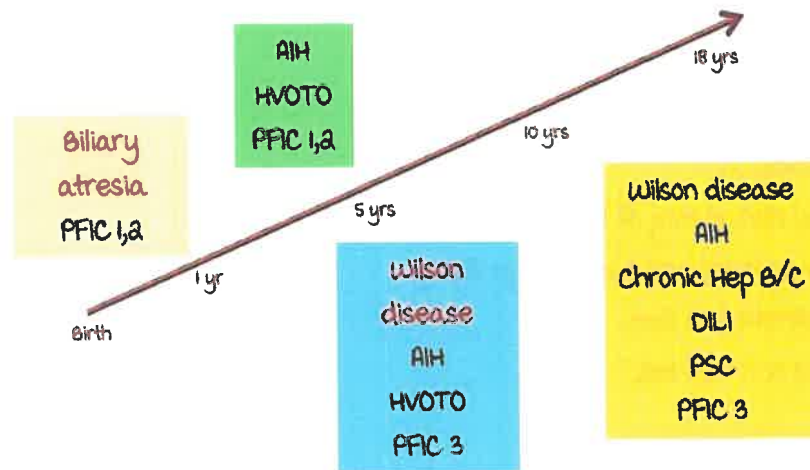
**Suspect underlying CLD with acute jaundice :**

- Prolonged history, FTT.
- Positive family or past history of liver disease.
- Decompensation (Ascites, Encephalopathy).
- Firm organomegaly, CLD stigmata.
- USG : Coarse echotexture, nodularity, collaterals, splenomegaly.

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**CLDs with jaundice :**

- Viral Hepatitis : HBV.
- Autoimmune liver disease :
  - AIH.
  - Overlap.
  - PSC.
- Vascular disorders : Budd Chiari syndrome.
- Cholestatic diseases :
  - Biliary atresia.
  - Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFICs).
  - Alagille syndrome
  - Fibrocystic diseases.
- Drug induced/toxic liver injury.

**Age-wise distribution of CLDs :****Etiological pointers :**

- Viral Hepatitis : Previous BT/injection use/tattooing/surgical procedures, family history.
- Wilson's disease :
  - Recent change in behaviour/school performance/handwriting.
  - Increasing pallor, cola coloured urine (Hemolysis), family history.
- Autoimmune disease.
- Recurrent jaundice, rash, joint pains, redness of eyes, increasing pallor, cola coloured urine.
- Cholestatic liver disease : Pruritus/jaundice.

- Vascular disease : Ascites + jaundice.

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## Hepatitis B

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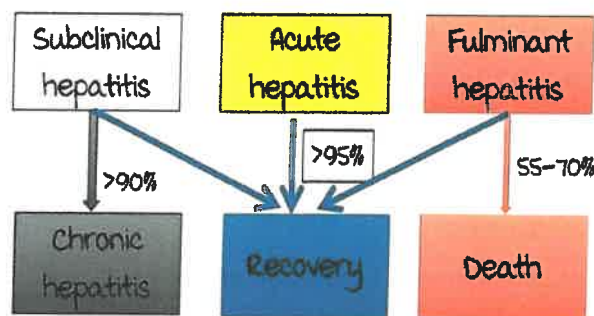
HBV infection in children :

| Age of infection                                          | Rate of persistent infection                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Perinatal period<br>(mother HBeAg+)<br>HBeAg +<br>HBeAg - | >90%<br>20%, (risk of FHF in precore mutant mother) |
| Preschool age (1 - 5 yr)                                  | 20 - 30%                                            |
| School aged (5 - 15 yr)                                   | 6%                                                  |
| Adult                                                     | 1 - 5%                                              |

Pathogenesis of HBV :

- HBV infection.
- Immune system maturity levels.
- Hepatocyte damage.

Natural History of Hepatitis B infection :



Phases of chronic hepatitis B infection :

Depending on the virus-host interaction.

1. Immune tolerance : HBeAg-positive infection.
2. Immune clearance : HBeAg-positive hepatitis.
3. Low or non-replication phase : HBeAg negative infection.
4. Phase IV : HBeAg negative hepatitis.

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Immune tolerance phase :

- Characteristics :
  - Presence of HBe-Ag antigen.
  - High HBV-DNA.
  - Normal or minimally elevated ALT level.
  - Liver Bx : Normal liver histology or minimal histological activity or scanty fibrosis.
- Persist for 10 to 30 years in perinatally acquired hepatitis B.
- Short-lived or absent in horizontally acquired hepatitis B.

Immune clearance phase :

- HBe-Ag positive.
- HBV-DNA levels : Fluctuating but progressively decreasing.
- Serum HBV-DNA : > 20,000 IU/ml (10<sup>5</sup> copies/ml).
- Elevated ALT.
- Liver biopsy : moderate or severe necro-inflammation with variable amounts of fibrosis.
- most of these patients acquire hepatitis B in late childhood, adolescence, or adulthood.

Low or non-replication phase : Inactive carrier.

- HBeAg negativity and anti-HBe positivity.
- HBV-DNA : undetectable or low (< 2000 IU/ml, 10<sup>4</sup> copies/ml).
- Persistently normal ALT levels.
- Liver Bx : Inactive liver histology with a usually minimal amount of fibrosis.

Phase IV : E negative hepatitis.

- IVa : Reactivation with the wild-type virus : HBe-Ag +ve state.
- IVb : Replication-competent HBV variants : HBe-Ag -ve disease.
  - HBeAg -ve with anti-HBe.
  - HBV-DNA : 2000-20 miu/ml (10<sup>4</sup>- 10<sup>8</sup> copies/ml).
  - ALT elevated.
  - Liver bx : moderate or severe necro-inflammation with variable amounts of fibrosis.
- IVc : Inactive carrier may lose HBe Ag & developed anti-HBs but low titer of HBV DNA persists → Reactivation.

**Occult Hepatitis B :**

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**Definition :**

Presence of HBV DNA in the liver of individuals testing HBsAg-negative with currently available assays & a cutoff value for serum HBV DNA ( $< 200$  IU/mL).

**Clinical importance :**

- Reactivation.
- Blood transfusion in immune-compromised recipient.
- Organ donation :
  - Liver transplantation.
  - Non liver solid organ transplantation.

**Goals of antiviral therapy :**

1. HBeAg seroconversion : Decrease in viral replication.
2. Normalization of serum aminotransferases.  
Normalization of Liver histopathology.
3. Prevention of progression of liver disease including cirrhosis and HCC.

**Indication of treatment :**

- Duration : more than 6 months.
- Biochemical : Raised transaminases  $> 2 \times$  UNL.
- Viral replication : HBe Ag +ve and high DNA.
- Liver histology : Disease activity.

**Acute Hepatitis B :**

- Asymptomatic  $\leftarrow$  Self-limited hepatitis  $\rightarrow$  FHF.
- Incubation period : 45-180 days.
- Children  $< 5$  yrs : Anicteric acute hepatitis B.
- Prodrome : Anorexia, fever, nausea, vomiting, myalgia, hepatomegaly.
- Icteric phase :
  - Jaundice, dark urine hepatomegaly.
  - Self-limited course.
  - Recovery is marked by anti-HBs seroconversion.

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## Other causes of acute hepatitis

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Wilson disease :

Presentation :

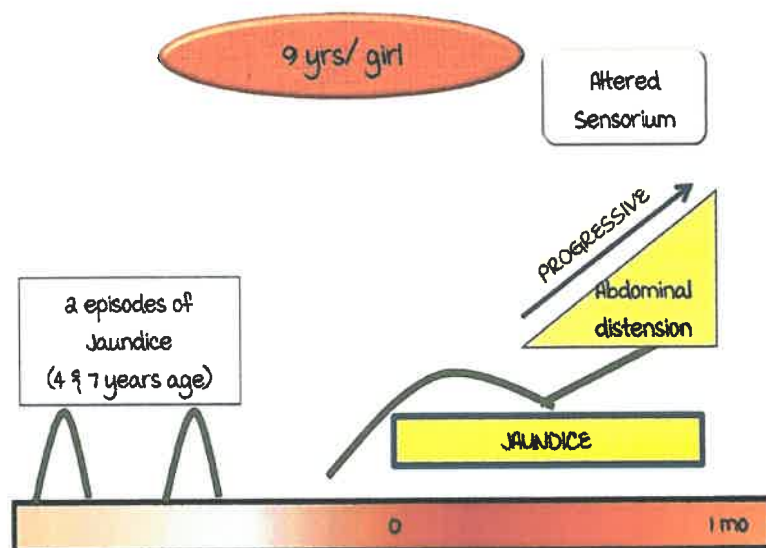
- Persistent hypertransaminasemia.
- Asymptomatic hepatomegaly.
- Fatty liver.
- Acute hepatitis (25 %).
- Chronic Hepatitis (10-30 %).
- Cirrhosis .
- Acute liver failure (10 %).

Features :

- Any suspected liver disease
- Associated neurological illness.
- Positive family history.
- Serum ceruloplasmin is low.
- Eye examination for KF ring.
- 24 hour urinary copper.



Case scenario :

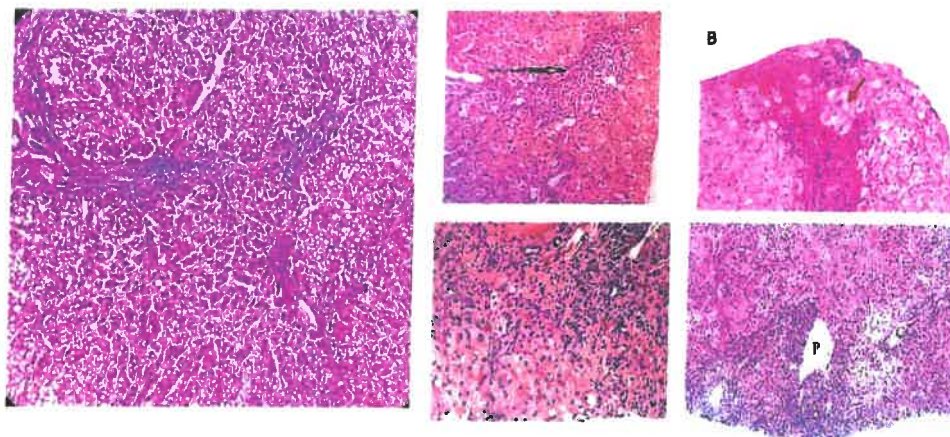


## Investigations :

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|           | Baseline | Others                    |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Bil (T/D) | 8.7/4.7  | IgG- 53 (8-13.5)          |
| AST/ALT   | 356/670  | ANA +ve (1:40)            |
| SAP/SGT   | 292/84   | ASMA / LKM-1 / SLA -ve    |
| Prot/ Alb | 8/2.3    | Viral markers : negative  |
| INR       | 2.4      | Retic Count 3.8%,         |
| Hb        | 8.0      | DCT +ve,                  |
| TLC       | 11600    | Per. Smear- Hemolysis +++ |
| Platelet  | 36       | LDH 800                   |

## Liver Biopsy :



## Features :

- micro and macronodular cirrhosis.
- Lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate.
- Interface activity
- Pseudo rosettes.
- Confluent necrosis.
- Emperipolesis.

## Features :

- Recurrent jaundice.
- more incident in female sex.
- Associated thyroid, skin, hemolysis, celiac disease conditions.

## Investigations for diagnosis :

- Total IgG.

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- DCT, retic count.
- ANA, ASMA, LKM-1.
- + Liver biopsy.

### Chronic viral hepatitis :

- Any suspected liver disease.
- Positive family history
- HbsAg, Anti Hbc total.
- Anti HCV.

### Cholestatic liver disease :

Age of Presentation

Infancy-Preschool

Pruritus

GGT

High



Alagille's  
Syndrome

Low



PFIC 1 & 2

Childhood-Adolescence

Pruritus (High GGTP)

Portal Hypertension



PFIC 3

episodes of Cholangitis



Sclerosing Cholangitis

### Features :

- Itching, pale stools.
- Associated vitamin deficiency.
- Positive family history.

### Investigations :

- Serum GGTP levels.
- Ultrasound abdomen.
- Liver biopsy.
- Genetic testing.



Shiny nails and lichen skin.