

CIRRHOSIS NURSING CARE

CHRONIC, PROGRESSIVE DISEASE OF THE LIVER RESULTING IN LIVER CELL DESTRUCTION AND SCARRING.

COMPLICATIONS

- **Ascites**
 - Fluid accumulation in the peritoneal cavity.
- **Portal Hypertension**
 - Elevated pressure in the portal vein because of blood flow obstruction through the liver.
- **Esophageal Variceal Bleeding**
 - Blood flow shunts to the weaker veins in the esophagus. These fragile veins can rupture.
- **Hepatic Encephalopathy**
 - Accumulation of ammonia due to liver failure can lead to neurologic decline.
- **Hepatorenal Syndrome**
 - Renal failure associated with hepatic failure.
- **Coagulation Defects**
 - Liver is unable to synthesize coagulation factors making the client prone to bleeding.

MAJOR ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Neurological

Encephalopathy
Asterixis

GI

Ascites
Esophageal Varices
GI Bleeding
Hepatomegaly
Pain
Nausea/Vomiting
Malnutrition

Hematologic

Anemia
DIC
Splenomegaly
Thrombocytopenia



Cardiopulmonary

Fatigue
Spider Angioma
Edema
Portal Hypertension
Dyspnea
Hypoxemia
Hyperventilation

Integumentary

Jaundice
Spider Angiomas
Ecchymosis/Petechia

Fluid and Electrolyte

Ascites
Hypokalemia
Water Retention
Edema

NURSING CARE

Administer	Monitor	Prepare	Other
Supplemental Vitamins	Edema	Patient for Paracentesis	Restrict Na
Enteral Feedings	I&O, Weight	Patient for Shunting	Elevate HOB
Diuretics	Level of Consciousness		Gastric Intubation if Indicated
Blood Products	Bleeding		Avoid Hepatotoxic Medications
Lactulose	Coagulation Times		
	Abdominal Girth		