

# CIRRHOSIS PATHOCHART

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Cirrhosis is chronic advanced disease of the liver that involves inflammation and fibrosis of liver cells (hepatocytes). That leads to formation of scar tissue within the liver which causes obstruction of hepatic blood flow and impedes proper liver function. The patient experiences impaired protein metabolism and drug toxicity is possible. In later stages, cirrhosis is irreversible and patients will require a liver transplant.



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## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Anorexia, malaise & general fatigue
- Jaundice, dark urine, clay-colored stools
- Anemia, Bleeding, Bruising easily
- Edema, Ascites
- ↑ Ammonia → Hepatic encephalopathy
- RUQ pain
- Varicose Veins
- Esophageal varices

## DIAGNOSTICS

- Liver Biopsy
- Ultrasound

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Support Liver Function
- Monitor for Bleeding
- Promote Comfort
- Manage Nutritional Needs
- Balance Fluids & Electrolytes

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Paracentesis to drain abdominal fluid
- Fluid restriction
- ↓ Protein intake
- ↓ Na intake
- Esophageal Varices → endoscopy to treat varices to prevent bleeding.

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- Analgesics
- Vitamin K
- Antacids
- Lactulose
- Blood Products
- Diuretics