TUMORS OF THE LIVER:

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**Objectives:**

At the end of the lecture the students will be able to:

1. Recognize the benign tumors of the liver.
2. Describe hepatocellular and cholangiocarcinoma.
3. Understand the frequency of metastatic disease to the liver.
4. Recognize the rarity of primary liver neoplasms in children.

**Introduction**

A variety of benign and malignant tumors arise in the liver of adults and children, however, metastases are known to form a big percentage of liver neoplasms in the adult population. The diagnostic challenges that these pose to the pathologist are made greater by the wide spectrum of appearances of the benign and more specifically malignant tumors either primary or metastatic. The lecture will address the different histopathological variants of these tumors arising or metastasizing to the liver. Special emphasis on the differential diagnosis and the tools available to reach a definitive diagnosis will be considered.

**Key Outlines:**

1. Benign tumors of the liver: adenoma, bile duct adenoma hemangioma.
2. Hepatocellular carcinoma: Incidence, Clinical Presentation, Histological Features and Prognosis.
3. Cholangiocarcinoma : Incidence, Clinical Features, and Histological Characteristics.
4. Hepatoblastoma in children.
5. Metastases : the most common organs metastasizing to the liver.

**Summary**

Hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinomas in adults are the most frequent hepatic neoplasms which should be recognized in the proper clinical setting and associated symptoms and signs. The challenge to the pathologist would be to differentiate between these two entities, however, the most important task would be to properly label a primary versus a metastatic disease. The prognosis of all malignant tumors of liver is related to the grade, stage and appropriate treatment as well as to the nature of the disease: primary versus metastatic.

**Take home message**

The student will investigate into the types of benign and malignant (primary or metastatic) liver neoplasms, the clinical and pathological features as well as the prognosis.

**Prescribed reading:**

Pathologic Basis of Disease, Robbins and Cotran

**Further Reading**

Textbook of pathology

Harshmohan

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