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# Cancers of the liver and pancreas

**Objectives:** 

1. Describe hepatocellular and cholangiocarcinoma.

**2. Understand the frequency of metastatic disease to the liver.** 

3. Recognize the rarity of primary liver neoplasms in children.

4.Recognize all aspects of pancreatic carcinoma.



Malignant tumors of the liver

The most common malignant tumors in the liver are metastatic The most common primary tumor in the liver is hepatocellular carcinoma

- The <u>liver</u> and <u>lungs</u> are the visceral organs that are most often involved by metastatic tumors.
- Primary carcinomas of the liver are relatively <u>uncommon</u>.
- Most arise from hepatocytes and are termed **hepatocellular carcinoma** (HCC). Much less common are carcinomas of bile duct origin, cholangiocarcinomas.
- The are two rare forms of primary liver cancer hepatoblastomas and angiosarcomas (neoplasm arising from the blood vessels).

#### Hepatocellular Carcinomas HCC

- Most common primary liver cancer
- Male predominance in western countries it's nine times more common in male, but in other part of the world like Asia and Africa it's less, three times more common.
- Peaks around fifth and sixth decades (older age group).
- More than 85% of cases of HCC occur in countries with high rates of chronic HBV infection.
- In these regions, the HBV carrier state begins in infancy following vertical transmission of virus from infected mothers, conferring a 200-fold increased risk for HCC by adulthood especially in Africa, there will be aspergillus (fungus) that grow in saved peanuts for long time in wet countries which produce aflatoxin and this toxin in presence of HBV will help to develop HCC.
- In the Western world where HBV is not prevalent, cirrhosis is present in 85% to 90% of cases of HCC, usually in the setting of other chronic liver diseases Because they drink alcohol

#### Pathogenesis of HCC

The following have been implicated in human hepatocarcinogenesis:

1. Postnecrotic cirrhosis due to chronic HCV (most common cause) and HBV (3rd most common cause)

2. Alcoholic cirrhosis (2nd most common cause of HCC)

3. Food contaminants : Aflatoxins (from Aspergillus flavus mold in grains and peanuts) in association with HBV infection.

- 4. Hereditary hemochromatosis, Wilson disease
- 5. PBC, AAT\* deficiency, tyrosinemia (\*): alpha one antitrypsin.

6. Metabolic syndrome e.g. obesity, diabetes mellitus, and NAFLD\*\*, all of which increase the risk for HCC (\*\*): non alcoholic fatty liver disease.

**Robbins**: Aflatoxin can bind covalently with cellular DNA, resulting in mutations in genes such as TP53.



## Morphology of HCC

#### **Unifocal** mass

**Multifocal** When you see multifocal think about metastasis because it's more common

## Diffusely infiltrative cancer

All three patterns may cause liver enlargement. All patterns of hepatocellular carcinomas have a strong propensity for invasion of vascular channels.









diffusely infiltrative cancer

#### Hepatocellular carcinoma

Such liver cancers usually arise in the setting of cirrhosis. Could HCC arise from non cirrhotic liver.

- Worldwide, viral hepatitis is the most common cause, but in the U.S., chronic alcoholism is the most common cause.
- The neoplasm is large and bulky and has a greenish cast because it contains bile. To the right of the main mass are small satellite nodules.

Extensive intrahepatic metastases may occur: -Tumor may invade the portal vein (with occlusion of the portal circulation) or inferior vena cava, extending even into the right side of the heart. - Lymph node metastases to the perihilar, peripancreatic, and para-aortic nodes above and below the diaphragm can be present.

- Hepatocellular carcinomas range from well- differentiated to highly

anaplastic undifferentiated lesions. **Robbins:** HCC has a strong propensity for vascular invasion

In well-differentiated and moderately well-differentiated tumors, cells that are recognizable as hepatocytic in origin. Bile pigment is usually present. The malignant cells may be positive for alpha-fetoprotein.\* Well-differentiated tumor have the capacity to produce the original function. In poorly differentiated forms, tumor cells can take on a pleomorphic appearance with numerous anaplastic giant cells, can become small and completely undifferentiated cells.





The golden greenish color is due to bile pigment, also note the nodules

\*Robbins: false-positive results are obtained in yolk-sac tumors, many non-neoplastic conditions such as cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis, normal pregnancy, massive liver necrosis



## Hepatocellular carcinoma Variant: Fibrolamellar carcinoma

A distinctive variant of hepatocellular carcinoma	This tumor occurs in young male and female adults (20 to 40 years of age),	It has no association with HBV or cirrhosis, and often has a better prognosis.	
microscopic examination			
it is composed of well-differentiated polygonal cells growing in nests or cords and separated by parallel lamellae of dense collagen bundles (fibrous tissue arranged in layers) and it has mild degree of polymorphism.			
Gross appearance			
It usually presents as single large, ha	ard "scirrhous" tumor with g through it.	A	
Clinical Features	<ul> <li>Ill-defined upper abdominal pain, malaise, fatigue, weight loss, and feeling of abdominal fullness.</li> <li>In many cases, the enlarged liver can be felt on palpation. Jaundice and fever are uncommon.</li> <li>Laboratory studies: Elevated levels of serum α-fetoprotein are found in 50% to 75% of patients with HCC. It's (not specific) biomarker normally found in fetus.</li> </ul>		
Hepatocellular Carcinoma Pic mnemonic I didn't found one so I created one	<ul> <li>Overall, death usually occurs from</li> <li>1) cachexia</li> <li>2) gastrointestinal or esophageal variceal bleeding Most common complication of portal hypertension.</li> <li>3) liver failure with hepatic coma</li> <li>4) rupture of the tumor with fatal hemorrhage. If it's large.</li> </ul>		
	It's a fibrolamellar so we draw a Jimagine that J is a piece of le The sun ≭ resembles the better prognosis of the tumor Note the alpha-fetus climbing the J tree We will have elevation of alpha-fetoprotein the -YOUNG -yang tells you that the tumor affect Young. Now let's discuss the gross appearance :see the <b>black alone s</b> "scirrhous" single large. Note some fibrous part from the tree in a shape of a bands dired Above that scary house there is two signs "hippies are not allow <u>in the wo GIT red folds</u> in both sides of scary house mouth tells Note The brownish rupture at the corner of the house, rupture e Now let us discuss microscopy see the polygonal shaped eggs s you will notes also that some "poly" of the eggs "gone" from the is composed of well-differentiated polygonal cells growing in n bundles	ttuce ,you will notes that J is the fiber part of that piece of lettuce. ttuce ,you will notes that J is the fiber part of that piece of lettuce. acary house next to the tree,grossly the tumor present as ted to it "fibrous bands coursing through it." ved! Cirrhosis are not allowed ممتوع التصوير فيه صورة كامير fib- rough about the dangerous GI and esophageal bleeding of the tumor may lead to fatal hemorrhage surrounded by the nest and separated by collagenes blue lines rest hence it's name polygonal ,On microscopic examination, it ests or cords and separated by parallel lamellae of dense collagen	

## Cholangiocarcinoma

**Robbins**: Extrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas constitute approximately two thirds of these tumors and may develop at the hilum known as **Klatskin tumors** 

- liver after HCC Cholangiocarcinoma is a malignancy of the biliary tree, arising from bile ducts within and outside of the liver cholangio means bile duct .
- It is the second most common primary malignant tumor of the liver
- occur in non-cirrhotic livers
- may track along the intrahepatic (it can grow along the tree of the bile duct spreading to the liver) portal tract system or produce a single massive tumor



#### The risk conditions for development of cholangiocarcinoma include

- Primary sclerosing cholangitis.
- Congenital fibropolycystic diseases of the biliary system (particularly Caroli disease and choledochal cysts).
- Previous exposure to Thorotrast (formerly used in radiography of the biliary tract).
- In the Orient, the incidence rates are higher, and it is due to chronic infection of the biliary tract by the liver fluke *Opisthorchis sinensis*. *This is all parasitology* !

### Morphology

**Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas** occur in the non-cirrhotic liver and may track along the intrahepatic portal tract system to create a treelike tumorous mass within the liver or a massive tumor nodule. Lymphatic and vascular invasion are common.



 well to moderately differentiated, growing as glandular/tubular structures lined by malignant epithelial cells surrounded by marked desmoplasia of the stroma.

- mucin-producing adenocarcinomas invasive glands which produces mucin because adenocarcinoma

in the hcc there will be production of bile



See the small dots they are also cancer! not only the big mass



You can see Desmoplasia,, what is the type of the tumor? Adenocarcinoma



## Cholangiocarcinoma

### Morphology

The carcinoma at the left has a glandular appearance. Cholangiocarcinomas do not make bile, but the cells do make mucin, and they can be almost impossible to distinguish from metastatic adenocarcinoma on biopsy or fine needle aspirate

- Mixed variants occur, in which elements of both hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma are present.
- Hematogenous metastases to the lungs, bones (mainly vertebrae), adrenals, brain. Lymph node metastases to the regional lymph nodes are also found

### **Clinical Features**

- Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma is usually detected late in its course, either as the result of obstruction to bile flow through the hilum of the liver or as a symptomatic liver mass.
- Prognosis is poor. The median time from diagnosis to death is 6 months. Aggressive surgery remains the only treatment offering hope for long-term survival.
- Alpha-fetoprotein is not elevated.







### Understand the frequency of metastatic disease to the liver

1-Metastatic tumors:	Numerous mass lesions of variable size. Some of the larger ones demonstrate central necrosis. The masses	
	are metastases to the liver.	
	Collapse mass =	
	umbilication	

Metastatic involvement of the liver is far more common than primary neoplasia. (most common sites for metastasis are liver and lung)

Although the most common primaries producing hepatic metastases are those of the breast, lung, and colon, any cancer in any site of the body may spread to the liver, including leukemias and lymphomas. Typically, multiple nodular metastases are found that often cause striking hepatomegaly and may replace over 80% of existent hepatic parenchyma. The liver weight can exceed several kilograms.

2- Angiosarcoma	Grow as small blood vessels
Not that common	This consists of pleomorphic endothelial cells with large
Just to remember it	hyperchromatic nuclei, giant cells in frequent mitosis and
Remember risk factors	irregular anastomosing vascular channels.
And it's related with	The cells may appear spindle shaped.
blood vessels and it is	Cirrhosis is present in 20% to 40% of the cases.
not necessarily a	These have also been linked to <b>vinyl chloride</b> and
cirrhosis patient	<b>thorotrast exposure.</b>
<b>3- Hepatocellular</b> <b>Adenomas</b> Not common,remember risk factors,related to medications,steroids and contraceptive ,is this tumor benign or malignant?	<ul> <li>Benign glandular neoplasms developing from hepatocytes</li> <li>Sex hormone exposure(oral contraceptive pills, anabolic steroids)</li> <li>markedly increases the frequency of hepatic adenoma</li> <li>They may be detected incidentally as a hepatic mass on abdominal imaging or when they cause symptoms.</li> <li>The most common symptom is pain, occasionally rupture, an event that may lead to life-threatening intra-abdominal bleeding shock</li> </ul>





Microscopic view showing cords of hepatocytes, with an arterial vascular supply (arrow) and no portal tracts. No central vein



#### Recognize all aspects of pancreatic carcinoma, Morphology, clinical features

Robbins: the most common antecedent lesions of pancreatic canc

#### Pancreatic carcinoma

Pancreatic cancer has one of the highest mortality rates of any cancer. It is carcinoma of the exocrine pancreas. It arises from ductal epithelial cells. It occurs in the 6th to 8th decade, blacks more than whites, males more than females, diabetics more than non-diabetics.

#### **Risk factors**

- 1. **Smoking**, which doubles the risk
- 2. Long-standing chronic pancreatitis and diabetes mellitus

3. Germ line mutations of the familial breast/ovarian cancer gene BRCA2 seen also in breast cancer are seen in approximately 10% of cases arising in individuals of Ashkenazi origin.

#### **Clinical features**

Jaundice, weight loss, pain, massive metastasis to liver and migratory thrombophlebitis. Most pancreatic cancers are diagnosed at an advanced stage, accounting for the high mortality rate

#### Pathogenesis for the development of pancreatic cancer

Pancreatic cancer arises as a consequence of inherited and acquired mutation in cancerassociated genes

is early TP53 is a tumour suppressor gene and it's late



Location of pancreatic carcinoma

- 1. Head of the pancreas: 60%
- 2. The body of the pancreas: 15%
- 3. The tail of the pancreas: 5%
- 4. The neoplasm diffusely involves the entire gland: 20%

#### Morphology

Carcinomas of the pancreas are usually hard, stellate, gray-white, poorly, defined masses.

Majority of carcinomas are ductal adenocarcinomas.

- Two features are characteristic:
- 1. It is highly invasive it is very aggressive tumor.
- 2. It elicits an intense non-neoplastic host reaction called a "desmoplastic response".



#### Metastasis to:

- *Lymph nodes*: Peripancreatic, gastric, mesenteric, omental, and portohepatic lymph nodes • are **frequently** involved.
- Distant metastases: to the lungs and bones and peritoneal cavity.
- Less common variants of pancreatic cancer include acinar cell carcinomas, adenosquamous carcinomas, and undifferentiated carcinomas with osteoclast-like giant تذكروا الاسماء بس ما بندخل بالديتيلز.cells



## Pathoma

#### <u>12</u> <u>Cancer of liver and pancreas</u>

#### PANCREATIC CARCINOMA

- A. Adenocarcinoma arising from the pancreatic ducts
- 1. Most commonly seen in the elderly (average age is 70 years)
- B. Major risk factors are smoking and chronic pancreatitis.
- C. Clinical features (usually occur late in disease)
- 1. Epigastric abdominal pain and weight loss
- 2. Obstructive jaundice with pale stools and palpable gallbladder; associated with tumors that arise in the head of the pancreas (most common location)
- 3. Secondary diabetes mellitus; associated with tumors that arise in the body or tail
- 4. Pancreatitis
- 5. Migratory thrombophlebitis (Trousseau sign); presents as swelling, erythema,

and tenderness in the extremities (seen in 10% of patients)

- 6. Serum tumor marker is CA 19-9.
- D. Surgical resection involves en bloc removal of the head and neck of pancreas,
- proximal duodenum, and gallbladder (Whipple procedure).
- E. Very poor prognosis; !-year survival is< 10%.

#### Liver

#### XI. HEPATIC ADENOMA

- A. Benign tumor of hepatocytes
- B. Associated with oral contraceptive use; regresses upon cessation of drug
- C. Risk of rupture and intraperitoneal bleeding, especially during pregnancy
- 1. Tumors are subcapsular and grow with exposure to estrogen.

#### XII. HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

- A. Malignant tumor of hepatocytes
- B. Risk factors include
- 1. Chronic hepatitis (e.g., HBV and HCV)
- 2. Cirrhosis (e.g., alcohol, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, hemochromatosis, Wilson disease, and
- A I AT deficiency)
- 3. Aflatoxins derived from Aspergillus {induce p53 mutations)
- C. Increased risk for Budd-Chiari syndrome
- 1. Liver infarction secondary to hepatic vein obstruction
- 2. Presents with painful hepatomegaly and ascites
- D. Tumors are often detected late because symptoms are masked by cirrhosis; poor prognosis
- E. Serum tumor marker is alpha-fetoprotein.

#### XIII. METASTASIS TO LIVER

A. More common than primary liver tumors; most common sources include colon, pancreas, lung, and breast carcinomas.

- B. Results in multiple nodules in the liver
- C. Clinically may be detected as hepatomegaly with a nodular free edge of the liver

# Questions



# 1. Which of the following is the most common to develop Hepatocellular carcinoma:

A. HAV B. HBV

C. HCC

D. a+c

# 2. Which of the following is the most common malignant tumor of the liver:

A. cholangiocarcinoma

B. metastatic tumors

C. primary HCC

3. A male patient complained of upper abdominal pain, fatigue and weight loss he was diagnosed with Hepatocellular carcinoma which one of the following may be positive? A. Alpha fetoprotein B. Alpha 1 acid glycoprotein C. Beta-2 microglobulin

Answers

1**-** B

2- B

- 3- A
- 4- B
- 5- A
- 6-A
- 7- C

## 4. The most common carcinomas of the liver will arise from:

- A. Bile ducts
- B. Hepatocytes
- C. Blood vessels

# 5. Which of the following is a laboratory finding in cholangiocarcinomas?

- A. Alpha-fetoprorein is not elevated
- B. Alpha-fetoprorein is elevated
- C. Alpha-fetoprorein is decreased

## 6. A distinctive variant of hepatocellular carcinoma is the:

- A. Fibrolamellar carcinoma
- B. Hepatic Adenoma
- C. Hepatocellular Carcinomas

## 7. What is the common etiology for Hepatic adenoma?

- A. HBV & HCV
- B. Primary sclerosing cholangitis
- C. Oral contraceptive drugs

كل الشكر والتقدير للجهود العظيمة من قبل أعضاء فريق علم الأمراض الكرام

قادة فريق علم الأمراض

شيرين العكيلي

فايز غياث الدرسوني

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