

choices?

- What are the chances that the treatment will be successful?
- What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment?
- How long will the treatment last?
- What is the treatment likely to cost?
- What are the prospects for liver transplantation?
- What are the chances of the cancer coming back after treatment?

FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Liver cancer is common in patients with cirrhosis, Hepatitis B and C.
- Early cancer usually has no symptoms.
- Screening tests such as regular ultrasound scans are recommended in patients who are at increased risk for liver cancer.
- Liver cancer is usually diagnosed by CT or MRI scan.
- Liver cancer that is detected early can be effectively treated.
- The treatment of liver cancer depends on the condition of the liver, the size, location, and number of tumors, and the person's age and overall health.
- Patients with liver cirrhosis and liver cancer that cannot be treated by other means can be cured by liver transplantation.



PLEASE SCAN FOR
THE LOCATION



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DEPARTMENTS

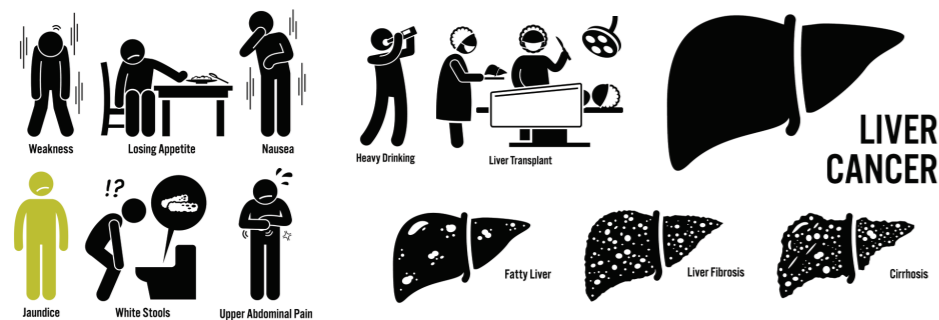
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KNOW THE FACTS LIVER CANCER



Digital Version



WHAT IS LIVER CANCER?

Liver cancer is the uncontrolled growth and spread of unhealthy cells in the liver. Cancer that starts in the liver is primary liver cancer. Cancer that spreads to the liver from another organ (such as the stomach, colon, pancreas or breast) is known as secondary or metastatic liver cancer.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVER TUMOR AND LIVER CANCER?

Any mass or nodule in the liver is known as a liver tumor. Liver tumors can be non-cancerous (benign) or cancerous (malignant). The most common type of cancer that originates in the liver is known as Hepatocellular Carcinoma(HCC).

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF PRIMARY LIVER CANCER?

There are several causes of primary liver cancer. Risk factors for liver cancer include:

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV)infections cause chronic damage to the liver and are an important cause for liver cancer. About 5-10% of patients with these viruses develop liver cancer.
- Cirrhosis is a progressive disorder that leads to scarring of the liver. Cirrhosis is the end result of all forms of long

standing liver damage. About 5-10% of patients with cirrhosis develop liver cancer.

- Toxins such as Arsenic: Drinking water (usually well water) contaminated with arsenic, also increase risk for developing liver cancer.
- Obesity increases the risk of liver cancer.
- Diabetes increases the risk of liver cancer, especially in those who also drink alcohol heavily or have associated Hepatitis B or C infection.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LIVER CANCER?

Small liver cancer usually has no obvious symptoms. Only when a cancer becomes large in size, it causes symptoms. Certain symptoms are related to liver failure, which develops when the cancer spreads within the liver. The following symptoms can occur:

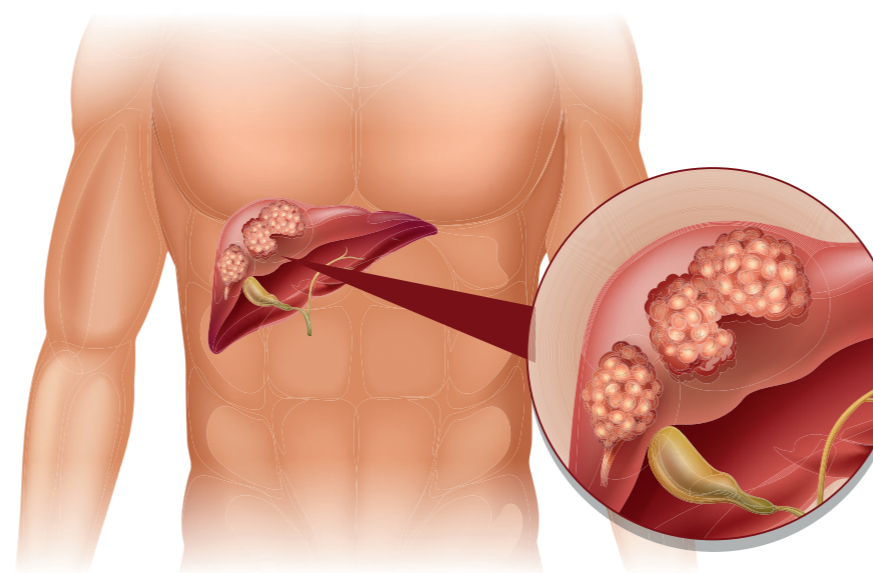
- Unexplained weight loss
- Lack of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Swelling of the belly due to accumulation of fluid
- Jaundice
- Liver enlargement or a mass that can be felt in the area of the liver
- Sudden deterioration in the overall condition of a patient with cirrhosis

WHAT TESTS WILL I HAVE TO DETECT LIVER CANCER?

If liver cancer is suspected, you will need a CT or MRI scan for confirmation. Unlike other cancers, a biopsy is not always required for diagnosis of liver cancer. Certain special blood tests called tumour markers are also done. It is important to detect liver cancers early because small cancers, in a patient who has minimal symptoms, can be treated effectively.

WHAT IS LIVER CANCER SCREENING?

Liver cancer screening is the best way to detect liver cancer when it is small and treatable. Patients who have Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or liver cirrhosis and are at high risk of developing liver cancer should undergo periodic screening tests. This usually involves a blood test to look for a cancer marker (AFP) and an ultrasound scan of the liver to look



for small nodules inthe liver that may be cancer. If the AFP value is high or anodule is detected in an ultrasound, further tests like a CT orMRI scan, are advised. The screening tests are usually advised once every 6 months.

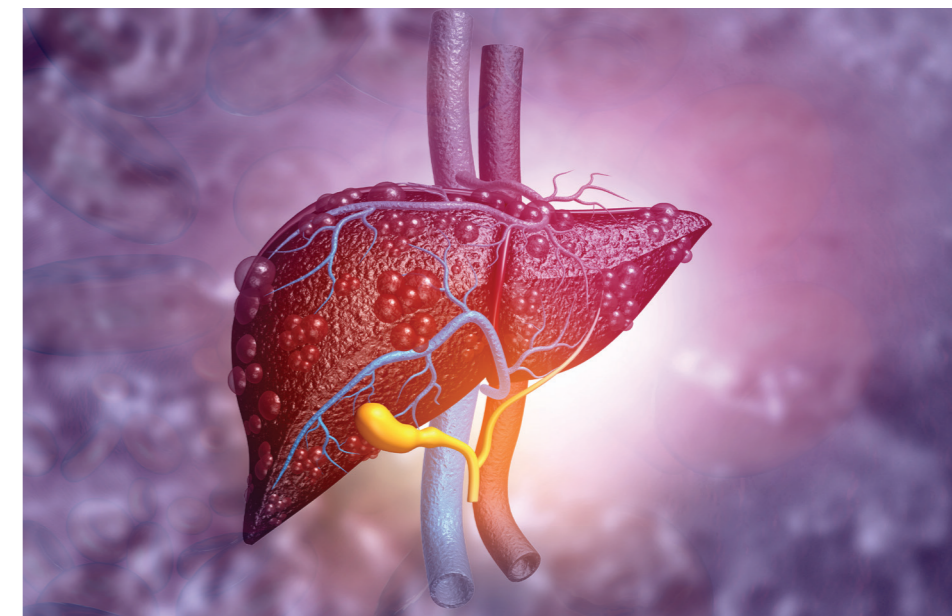
HOW IS LIVER CANCER TREATED?

The treatment of liver cancer treatment depends on:

- The liver's condition
- The size, location, and number of tumors
- The person's age and overall health

Different ways of treating liver cancer are:

Surgery: If the cancer has been found early and the rest of the liver is healthy, a surgery can be performed to remove the cancer from the liver.



Radio frequency Ablation: Small cancers can also be burnedusing heat generated through high-energy radio frequency waves. This is a non-surgical technique that uses ultra soundor CT scan to localize the cancer and a special needle that is inserted into the cancer.

Chemotherapy or chemoembolization: Chemotherapy uses anti-cancer drugs to destroy cancer cells. The chemotherapy is injected directly into the blood vessels supplying the cancer so that the effect is maximum in the area of the cancer and there are no side effects on the rest of the body. This is usually done for advanced cancers where surgery or liver transplant is not possible.

Radiation Therapy: Radiation therapy uses focused high-energy x-rays to destroy the cancer.

Sorafenib: This is an anti-cancer

medication for use in advanced cases of liver cancer where no other treatment is possible.

Can a liver transplant be done for liver cancer?

The most effective treatment for liver cancer is to remove it completely by surgery. However, surgery may not be possible if there are features of liver failure or if the cancer is large in size. In this situation it is possible to perform a liver transplantation during which the entire liver along with the cancer is removed and replaced with another liver.

If you have been diagnosed with liver cancer, what questions should you ask your doctor?

You and your family should have a clear understanding of the disease and the treatment plan.

- What is the stage of the disease?
- What are the various treatment