

Author(s): Rebecca W. Van Dyke, M.D., 2012

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LIVER TESTS:

The assessment of liver injury and liver function
and approach to the diagnosis of liver disease.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 11:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Learning Objectives:

- A. General: Understand the laboratory tests that are used in the clinical approach to liver disease and the pattern of abnormalities that occur in specific forms of liver injury.
1. When do we suspect a patient has liver disease? What tests can be used to accept or deny the presence of liver disease?
 2. Can we define the type of liver disease the patient has by analyzing the results of the liver tests?
 3. How much functional liver tissue is present in a patient?
- B. Specific:
1. Be able to interpret panels of biochemical liver tests in terms of general type of liver disease, chronicity and severity.
 2. Be able to construct a differential diagnosis for different patterns of liver test results.
 3. Be able to identify potential problems in interpreting liver tests.

Reading Assignment:

Cecil's Essentials of Medicine: 8th edition, 2010: Chapters 41-42
(7th edition, 2007: Chapters 40-41)

Key words: liver test, AST, ALT, alkaline phosphatase, albumin, bilirubin, prothrombin time

FYI:

1. Bates et al. Intestinal alkaline phosphatase detoxifies lipopolysaccharide and prevents inflammation in Zebrafish in response to the gut microbiota. Cell Host & Microbe 2:371, 2007
2. Tuin et al. On the role and fate of LPS-dephosphorylating activity in the rat liver. Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol 290:G377, 2006.