

Liver Specialist St. John's

Liver Specialist St. John's - The liver is a vital organ which carries our many functions in the body comprising: detoxification, protein synthesis, and the production of biochemicals that are important for digestion. The liver is necessary for the body to survive. Liver dialysis can be used for short term but there is no way to function without a liver for long term.

The liver plays a major part in plasma protein synthesis, glycogen storage, red blood cells decomposition, detoxification, and hormone production. It is located within the abdominal-pelvic part of the tummy, below the diaphragm. The liver is responsible for bile production. This is an alkaline compound that emulsifies lipids to help in digestion. The tissues that make the liver are highly specialized. They regulate a large amount of high volume biochemical reactions, like the synthesis and breakdown of complex and small molecules.

Regeneration

The liver is quite unique in that it is capable of generating naturally. With as little as 25 percent, the liver can make a full regeneration into a whole liver. This is considered to be compensatory growth as opposed to true regeneration. Hence, the liver's lobes that are taken out do not re-grow, and the growth of the liver is a restoration of function and not original form. In true regeneration, both the original function and form are restored.

Diseases of the Liver

Because the liver supports almost every organ in the body and is essential to its survival, the liver is prone to various illnesses, particularly because of its multidimensional functions and its strategic location. Amongst the most common liver illnesses consist of: alcohol damage, cirrhosis, fatty liver, hepatitis, A, B, C and E, cancer and tumors and damage due to heavy drug use, especially cancer drugs and acetaminophen, likewise called paracetamol.

A large number of liver illnesses are accompanied by jaundice. This is caused by increased bilirubin levels within the body, resulting from the breakup of the haemoglobin of dead red blood cells. Typically, the liver eliminates bilirubin from the blood and emits it through bile. Diseases that affect liver function will lead to derangement of these processes. Fortunately, the liver has a large reserve capability and also a large ability to regenerate. Usually, the liver just shows signs after extensive damage has occurred.

Disease Symptoms

Classic liver damage symptoms comprise: dark urine when bilirubin mixes with the urine, pale stools occur when the brown pigment stercobilin is absent from the stool. This pigment is derived from bilirubin metabolites which are made within the liver. Jaundice is the yellow tinge on the skin or the white of the eyes that happens where bilirubin deposits on the skin. This results in an intense itching sensation that is the most common patient complaint with those suffering liver failure.

Excessive fatigue happens due to a generalized loss of minerals, nutrients and vitamins. Swelling in the ankles, feet and abdomen happens because the liver fails to make albumin. Easy bruising and bleeding are other signs. Substances which help to prevent bleeding are produced within the liver, thus, when liver damage is present, severe bleeding can result since these substances are not available anymore.