Liver Specialist Charlottetown

Liver Specialist Charlottetown - The liver is a very important organ which carries our various functions within the body consisting of: protein synthesis, detoxification, and the production of biochemicals that are essential for digestion. For the survival of the body, the liver is required. Liver dialysis can be used temporarily but there is no way to function for long term without a liver.

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

Regeneration

The liver is an incredible organ in the way that it is the only internal human organ which is capable of generating naturally. It only takes as little as 25% of a liver to regenerate into a whole liver. This is considered to be compensatory growth as opposed to true regeneration. Therefore, the lobes of the liver which 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

As the liver supports practically every organ within the body and is vital to its survival, the liver is prone to various diseases, especially because of its strategic location and multidimensional functions. Among the most common liver illnesses include: alcohol damage, cirrhosis, hepatitis A, B, C, and E, fatty liver, cancer and tumors and damage due to heavy drug use, particularly cancer drugs and acetaminophen, also known as paracetamol.

A large number of liver diseases are accompanied by jaundice. This is due to increased levels of bilirubin within the body, resulting from the breakup of the haemoglobin of dead red blood cells. Typically, the liver eliminates bilirubin from the blood and excretes it through bile. Diseases which affect liver function will cause derangement of these processes. Fortunately, the liver has a large reserve capability and also a large capability to regenerate. Usually, the liver only shows symptoms after extensive damage has occurred.

Disease Symptoms

The classic signs of liver damage comprises: dark urine when bilirubin mixes along with the urine, and pale stool when there is an absence of brown pigment stercobilin. The pigment also comes from bilirubin metabolites which are processes within the liver. Jaundice is the yellow tinge on the whites of the eyes or the skin which takes place where bilirubin deposits on the skin. This leads to an intense itching sensation that is the most common patient complaint with individuals suffering liver failure.

Excessive fatigue occurs as a result of a generalized loss of vitamins, minerals and nutrients. Swelling in the feet, abdomen and ankles takes place 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, therefore, when liver damage is present, severe bleeding can result as these substances are not available anymore.