

Liver Specialist Abbotsford

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

The jobs that the liver performs, comprises glycogen storage, plasma protein synthesis, the decomposition of red blood cells, hormone production and detoxification. The liver sits below the diaphragm within the abdominal-pelvic area of the tummy. The liver is responsible for bile production. This is an alkaline compound which emulsifies lipids to aid in digestion. The tissues that 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 quite unique in that it is capable of natural regeneration. With as little as 25 percent, the liver may 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 which are removed do not grow again, and the liver growth 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 almost every organ in the body and is essential to its survival, the liver is prone to various diseases, especially because of its multidimensional functions and its strategic location. Among the most common liver diseases comprise: cirrhosis, alcohol damage, hepatitis A, B, C, and E, fatty liver, cancer and tumors and damage as a result of heavy drug use, particularly cancer drugs and acetaminophen, likewise known as paracetamol.

A large number of liver diseases are accompanied by jaundice. This is caused by increased levels of bilirubin within the body, resulting from the breakup of the haemoglobin of dead red blood cells. Normally, the liver removes bilirubin from the blood and excretes it through bile. Diseases which affect liver function would lead to derangement of these processes. Fortunately, the liver has a huge capacity to regenerate and also has a large reserve ability. Normally, the liver only exhibits symptoms after extensive damage has occurred.

Disease Symptoms

Classic liver damage signs include: dark urine when bilirubin mixes along with the urine, pale stools happen when the brown pigment stercobilin is absent from the stool. This pigment is derived from bilirubin metabolites which are made in the liver. Jaundice is the yellow tinge on the skin or the white of the eyes which occurs where bilirubin deposits on the skin. This leads to an intense itching sensation which is the most common patient complaint with people suffering liver failure.

Excessive fatigue occurs as a result of a generalized loss of minerals, nutrients and vitamins. Swelling in the feet, abdomen and ankles occurs because the liver fails to make albumin. Easy bleeding and bruising are other indications. Substances that help to prevent bleeding are produced in the liver, thus, when liver damage is present, severe bleeding can result since these substances are no longer available.