

Liver Specialist Edmonton

Liver Specialist Edmonton - The liver is a body organ which is needed so as to do many functions within the body, consisting of detoxification, protein synthesis, and the production of biochemicals which are vital for digestion. For the body to survive, the liver is necessary. Liver dialysis can be used temporarily but there is no way to function for long term without a liver.

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

Diseases of the Liver

As the liver supports almost every organ in the body and is vital to its survival, the liver is prone to different sicknesses, specially due to its multidimensional functions and its strategic location. Some of the most common liver diseases comprise: alcohol damage, cirrhosis, fatty liver, hepatitis, A, B, C and E, cancer and tumors and damage caused by heavy drug use, particularly cancer medications and acetaminophen, likewise called paracetamol.

Numerous illnesses of the liver are accompanied by jaundice as the increased bilirubin levels within the body will normally result from the breaking up of the haemoglobin of dead red blood cells. Usually, the liver gets rid of bilirubin from the blood and excretes it through bile. Sicknesses which affect liver function will cause derangement of these processes. Fortunately, the liver has a huge capacity to regenerate and likewise has a huge reserve ability. Often, the liver just shows signs after extensive damage has taken place.

Disease Symptoms

Classic liver damage symptoms consist of: dark urine when bilirubin mixes 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 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 complaint by individuals suffering liver failure.

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