

Liver failure

Also called: hepatic failure

Loss of liver function.

Rare

Fewer than 200,000 US cases per year



Treatment can help, but this condition can't be cured



Requires a medical diagnosis



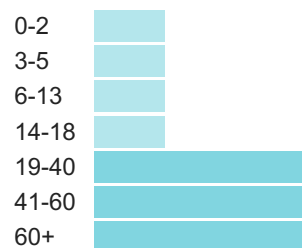
Lab tests or imaging always required

Liver failure occurs either suddenly (acute) or gradually (chronic). Causes include a reaction to a medication, high doses of acetaminophen, hepatitis infection, alcohol abuse, and advanced fatty liver.

Yellowed skin and eyes (jaundice) along with belly pain and swelling are symptoms of liver failure.

Treatment options include medications, dietary changes, or possibly a liver transplant.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

Yellowed skin and eyes (jaundice) along with belly pain and swelling are symptoms of liver failure.

People may experience:

Pain areas: in the abdomen

Whole body: fatigue, loss of appetite, or water-electrolyte imbalance

Gastrointestinal: bloating or nausea

Also common: mental confusion, yellow skin and eyes, bad breath from liver disease, bleeding, bruising, flapping hand tremor, itching, or swelling

Treatments

Treatment consists of ammonia reducing medications and supportive care

Treatment options include medications, dietary changes, or possibly a liver transplant.

Self-care

Avoid alcohol: May be harmful and aggravate certain conditions.

Medications

Ammonia reducer: Reduces the amount of ammonia in the body.

- Lactulose (Constulose, Enulose, Generlac, and Kristalose)

Specialists

Hepatologist: Focuses on liver, gallbladder, and biliary tree disorders.

Gastroenterologist: Focuses on the digestive system and its disorders.

Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)