

Nutrition in Chronic Liver Disease: Consensus Statement of the Indian National Association for Study of the Liver



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Malnutrition and sarcopenia are common in patients with chronic liver disease and are associated with increased risk of decompensation, infections, wait-list mortality and poorer outcomes after liver transplantation. Assessment of nutritional status and management of malnutrition are therefore essential to improve outcomes in patients with chronic liver disease. This consensus statement of the Indian National Association for Study of the Liver provides a comprehensive review of nutrition in chronic liver disease and gives recommendations for nutritional screening and treatment in specific clinical scenarios of malnutrition in cirrhosis in adults as well as children with chronic liver disease and metabolic disorders. (J CLIN EXP HEPATOL 2021;11:97–143)

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Abbreviations: ACLF: acute on chronic liver failure; ASM: appendicular skeletal muscle mass; BCAA: branched chain amino acids; BIA: bioimpedance analysis; BMI: body mass index; BMD: bone mineral densitometry; CLD: chronic liver disease; CS: corn-starch; CT: computed tomography; CTP: Child-Turcotte-Pugh; DEXA: dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry; EASL: European Association for the Study of the Liver; ESPEN: European society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism; GSD: glycogen storage disease; HGS: hand-grip strength; IBW: ideal body weight; IEM: inborn error of metabolism; INASL: Indian National Association for Study of the Liver; L3: third lumbar; LFI: Liver Frailty Index; MELD: model for end-stage liver disease; MCT: medium-chain triglyceride; MLD: metabolic liver disease; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; REE: NASH; non-alcoholic liver disease: resting energy expenditure; RDA: recommended daily allowance; RFH-NPT: Royal Free Hospital-Nutritional Prioritizing Tool; SMI: skeletal muscle index; TEE: total energy expenditure

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The liver plays a major role in the digestion, absorption, storage, synthesis and metabolism of macro- and micronutrients. Malnutrition is commonly seen in patients with liver disease and is associated with increased complications such as hepatic encephalopathy (HE), ascites and increased susceptibility to infections. Malnutrition and muscle mass loss (sarcopenia), which is a surrogate marker for severe malnutrition, are well recognized as a predictor of morbidity and mortality in patients with advanced liver disease.¹

The importance of nutrition in patients with liver disease and transplant candidates has been well recognized, and there are up-to-date guidelines issued by leading authorities including (European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN)).^{2–4} However, these guidelines cannot be universally applied to the Indian population, and there are specific issues that merit consideration in the assessment of nutritional status and management of malnutrition in the Indian context.

While there has been significant progress in health and nutrition interventions in India⁵ and under-nutrition rates are steadily decreasing, there is still a high prevalence of malnutrition, especially in rural India.^{6,7} Tribal populations are particularly vulnerable to undernutrition because of their geographical isolation, uncertainty of food supply, lack of adequate healthcare facilities and irrational belief systems and taboos.

Indians have lower muscle mass and higher prevalence of sarcopenia. In a health survey conducted in China, Ghana, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa, between 2007 and 2012, the skeletal muscle mass was calculated with specific indirect population formulas based on age, sex, weight, height and race. The prevalence of sarcopenia in adults >65 years of age was highest in India (17.5%) and lowest in Poland (12.6%).⁸ There are ethnic differences in lean mass, and South Asian men and women have significantly less lean mass than Aboriginal, Chinese and European men and women of the same body size.⁹ The mean muscle mass of Asians is approximately 15% lower than that of western population even after height adjustments.^{10,11} Considering the lower muscle mass in Indians, there is a need to have normative values of sarcopenia in the Indian population. While some work has been done in evaluating normal values of computed tomography (CT) skeletal muscle index (SMI), hand-grip strength (HGS), gait velocity and chair stand in non-cirrhosis Indian population,¹² further prospective studies are needed for the assessment of sarcopenia to establish criteria and standardize muscularity assessment according to ethnicity, gender and age.

Social and cultural issues like diet and physical activity may also explain the higher sarcopenia rates in Indians. Indian diets derive almost 60% of their protein from cereals with relatively low digestibility and quality.¹³ Besides diet, physical activity also plays a role in development of sarcopenia. Although moderate-vigorous physical activity is an important factor in counteracting sarcopenia,¹⁴ In-

dians have lower exercise levels as occupations have become less labour intensive and leisure time physical activity is not very popular.¹⁵

These considerations prompted the Indian National Association for Study of the Liver (INASL) to set up a Task Force to formulate consensus guidelines for management of nutrition in liver disease, relevant to the Indian scenario.

The available evidence and recommendations were adapted from the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system for evaluating evidence (Table 1).¹⁶

Mechanism and etiology of malnutrition in cirrhosis

Malnutrition in cirrhosis is multifactorial and may be due to inadequate dietary intake, poor absorption or metabolic disturbances. Dietary intake can be decreased due to nausea, vomiting or early satiety secondary to ascites, gastroparesis, active alcoholism, reduced palatability due to salt restriction, aphthous ulcers secondary to vitamin B complex deficiency, dysgeusia secondary to zinc deficiency and poor socio-economic status especially in the developing countries. Restriction of oral intake due to HE along with iatrogenic fasting for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures further adds to the problem.

Maldigestion and malabsorption of nutrients can occur as a result of intraluminal bile acid deficiency due to decreased production from the cirrhotic liver, bacterial overgrowth, intestinal dysmotility and portal hypertensive enteropathy.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Maldigestion may also be due to concomitant chronic pancreatitis among patients with alcohol-related cirrhosis.

Cirrhosis is a state of altered metabolism. Müller et al.²⁰ found raised resting energy expenditure (REE) by indirect calorimetry in 34% of cirrhotic patients. This may be due to increased pro-inflammatory cytokines and abnormalities in carbohydrate, protein and lipid metabolism. Metabolism also increases due to infection, ascites and portal

Table 1 Level of Evidence and Grade of Recommendations (Adapted from GRADE System).

Level of evidence ^a		Confidence in the evidence
High	Data derived from meta-analyses or systematic reviews or from (multiple) randomized trials with high quality.	Further research is unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of benefit and risk.
Moderate	Data derived from a single randomised controlled trial or multiple non-randomized studies.	Further research (if performed) is likely to have an impact on our confidence in the estimate of benefit and risk and may change the estimate.
Low	Small studies, retrospective observational studies, registries.	Any estimate of effect is uncertain.
Recommendations – Grade ^b		Wording associated with the grade of recommendation
Strong		'must', 'should' or 'INASL recommends'
Weak		'can', 'may' or 'INASL suggests'

^aLevel was graded down if there is a poor quality, strong bias or inconsistency between studies; level was graded up if there is a large effect size.

^bRecommendations were reached by consensus of the panel and included the quality of evidence, presumed patient important outcomes and costs.

hypertension.²¹ Altered carbohydrate metabolism results in reduced synthesis of glycogen in the liver leading to increased gluconeogenesis from protein and fat breakdown.²² A study in patients with cirrhosis has shown that during an overnight fast, 58% of energy came from fat oxidation, whereas healthy controls derived 55% of their energy from carbohydrates.²³

Pathogenesis of sarcopenia in cirrhosis

The liver has a very important role in maintaining muscle homeostasis by maintaining a balance between muscle growth and degradation. The primary pathway for muscle formation involves the mTOR signalling pathway leading to increased protein synthesis this pathway is activated by phosphokinase B. This pathway is increased by physical exercise, testosterone, insulin and insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).^{24,25} The second pathway leading to muscle growth is by the proliferation and activation of the satellite cells. This is increased by branched chain amino acids (BCAAs) pool in the body, exercise and testosterone and negatively affected by myostatin, which deactivates the satellite cells.^{26,27} Ubiquitin-dependent proteasomal degradation is the major pathway involved in muscle degradation, and the second is autophagy. Increased level of inflammation leads to increased muscle degradation and overproduction of pro-inflammatory cytokines like adiponectin, interleukin (IL)-6 and tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha, which have fibrogenic and oxidative effects.^{28,29} Autophagy levels are higher in cirrhotics, and alcohol can stimulate autophagy pathway.³⁰ Reduced physical activity also leads to reduction in the release of myokines, which normally help to maintain muscle mass.³¹

The molecular basis of sarcopenia in patients with cirrhosis is centred on the myotoxic effects of hyperammonaemia.³² The proposed mechanism is that ammonia leads to an increase in myostatin via the NF Kappa B pathway leading to reduction in muscle protein synthesis and strength.³³ Moreover, hyperammonaemia interferes with the tricyclic acid cycle and reduces ATP generation.³³ The prevalence of sarcopenia in cirrhosis is also influenced by alcohol use disorder, a cause of myopathy and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in which there are other mechanisms leading to muscle weakness and sarcopenia.^{34,35}

The overall turnover of muscle is higher in patients with cirrhosis.^{36,37} More BCAAs are used for energy due to increased protein degradation and turnover and an increased muscle uptake of BCAA to detoxify ammonia.³⁸⁻⁴⁰

Hormonal alterations contribute to alterations in muscle mass. Testosterone inhibits myostatin, thereby increasing the activity of the satellite cells in muscles. It also maintains a higher level of IGF-1, which promotes muscle protein synthesis. Data suggest that 90% of individuals with cirrhosis have decreased testosterone levels and increased levels of sex hormone-binding globulin further reducing the level of free testosterone.^{41,42} Reduced testosterone levels have been associated with increased mortality in individuals with cirrhosis.⁴³ The levels of IGF inversely correlated with the disease severity.^{44,45}

Pathogenesis of hepatic osteodystrophy in chronic liver disease

Hepatic osteodystrophy refers to the changes in bone metabolism in chronic liver disease (CLD), which are clinically represented by osteoporosis, osteopenia and less commonly osteomalacia. The clinical implication of these abnormalities is bone pains, skeletal deformities and frequent fractures. While these complications are commonly seen in patients with cholestatic diseases (primary biliary cholangitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis), these are also seen in other CLD as well.

The bone remodeling and osteoclastogenesis are regulated by the system of the receptor activator of nuclear factor κ B ligand (RANKL) and osteoprotegerin (OPG) system, in which RANKL is a promoter of osteoclast differentiation and activation and OPG is an inhibitor. Serum RANKL levels are significantly lower, and OPG levels are higher in osteopenic/osteoporotic patients with CLD. There are multiple risk factors for hepatic osteodystrophy in liver disease including genetic factors, vitamin D deficiency and calcium disorders, vitamin K deficiency, IGF-1 deficiency, hyperbilirubinemia, hypogonadism, medication, fibronectin, hyperhomocysteinemia, leptin and lifestyle.⁴⁶ Osteoprogenitor cells are reduced in patients with cirrhosis.⁴⁷

Magnitude of malnutrition in cirrhosis: global and Indian perspectives

Malnutrition and sarcopenia are common complications of cirrhosis, which are neglected and often not assessed or are under reported. Body weight and body mass index (BMI) are affected by fluid retention from ascites and oedema, which can result in underassessment of malnutrition. Moreover, the prevalence of malnutrition may be affected by the various definitions, methods and different cut-offs used to assess the nutritional status in patients with cirrhosis.

The global prevalence rate of sarcopenia in cirrhosis was mean 48.1% and appeared more among men (61.6%) than in women (36%).⁴⁸ A high prevalence of malnutrition and sarcopenia in cirrhosis has been reported in India varying between 47% and 84%.^{49–54} The prevalence of malnutrition increases with severity of liver disease.⁴⁹

The high sarcopenia in cirrhotics in Indians may be related to high prevalence of malnutrition in Indian population, dietary differences and lower mean muscle mass in Indians. However, further studies are needed to establish criteria and standardize muscularity assessment according to the gender and age for Indian population.

Consensus statements

1. Prevalence of malnutrition in cirrhosis is higher among Indians compared with global population. (*Level of evidence – moderate*)
2. Malnutrition increases with severity of liver disease, and sarcopenia is more frequent in males. (*Level of evidence – moderate*)

Impact of malnutrition and sarcopenia on severity of liver disease and mortality

The severity and prevalence of sarcopenia in cirrhosis correlates with the Child–Pugh score.⁵⁵ When added to the model for end-stage liver disease (MELD) score, sarcopenia improves the utility for predicting survival. It is particularly useful in patients with MELD scores <15 and Child–Pugh class A/B.^{55–58} Therefore, sarcopenia can help in risk-stratifying patients with compensated and early decompensated cirrhosis.

Sarcopenia has a negative impact on morbidity and mortality in patients with liver cirrhosis.^{59–62} Sarcopenia in patients with NAFLD is associated with a higher likelihood of having steatohepatitis or advanced liver fibrosis.⁶³ Patients with cirrhosis and sarcopenia are more likely to develop HE, refractory ascites and sepsis-related complications.^{55,58,64} Sarcopenic patients are also more likely to develop acute on chronic liver failure (ACLF) after transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS).⁶⁵ The treatment of refractory ascites by TIPS has improved sarcopenia; failure of reversal of sarcopenia after TIPS was accompanied by a higher mortality.⁶⁶ Sarcopenia is associated with decreased survival, increased treatment-related mortality and tumour recurrence in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).⁶⁷

As per a recent meta-analysis, sarcopenia in the Asian populations (including Japan and Korea) was associated

with higher mortality compared with Western populations (HR of mortality 2.45 (95% CI = 1.44–4.16) compared with the Western patients (HR of mortality 1.45 (95% CI = 1.002–2.09).⁴⁸ This higher mortality in Asian patients with cirrhosis and sarcopenia has been attributed to differences in racial characteristics, body size, dietary regimes, and life quality between Asian and Western individuals in different countries.

Consensus statements

3. Malnutrition and sarcopenia are associated with increased risk of decompensation, infections and increased wait-list mortality in patients with cirrhosis. (*Level of evidence – moderate*)

Implications of malnutrition and sarcopenia in liver transplantation

Pre-transplant malnutrition and sarcopenia are associated with increased risk of decompensation, infections and increased waitlist mortality.⁶⁸ Post-transplant these complications predict poorer outcomes and are associated with longer time to extubation after transplantation, increased post-operative infections, prolonged ICU stay and hospitalization, and decreased survival.^{69–72}

Sarcopenia does not always improve after transplantation.^{73–75} While some patients demonstrate improvement of sarcopenia after liver transplant,⁷⁶ up to one-fourth may develop *de novo* sarcopenia after transplant.⁷⁷ Plank et al.⁷⁸ have reported 1 kg loss of total body protein immediately after surgery which was not replenished after 12 months. Post-transplant progression of sarcopenia may be related to the persistent catabolic state, immunosuppression, corticosteroids, prolonged hospital stay and at times due to recurrence of liver disease.⁷⁴

Consensus statements

4. Post-transplant malnutrition and sarcopenia predict poorer outcomes and are associated with longer hospitalization, longer ICU stay and increased risk of mortality. (*Level of evidence- Low*)
5. Some patients may develop sarcopenia after liver transplantation. (*Level of evidence- Low*)

Obesity in patients with cirrhosis

While undernutrition is common, obesity can also be a cause of concern in patients with CLD. Obesity leads to overproduction of pro-inflammatory cytokines, which have fibrogenic and oxidative effects.⁷⁹ Genetic factors

like PNPLA3 polymorphisms add to the pro-inflammatory state.⁸⁰

Obesity is linked with insulin resistance and the metabolic syndrome. A Swedish study has reported that adolescent obesity is associated with a significantly higher risk of developing severe liver disease later in life.⁸¹ Patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and alcohol-related cirrhosis have a higher prevalence of obesity.^{82,83} Despite having increased adipose tissue, these patients have reduced muscle mass which is referred to as sarcopenic obesity.^{84,85}

Obesity is an independent risk factor for progression of underlying liver disease irrespective of the aetiology of liver disease.⁸⁶⁻⁸⁸ Alcohol-induced liver disease is more severe in obese compared with lean individuals. In an Italian study, 46% of patients with heavy drinking had steatosis compared with 95% in heavy drinkers with obesity.⁸⁹ In another study, fibrosis progression was found to be more in obese patients with NAFLD with moderate drinking (<140 gm/week) compared with obese non-drinkers.⁹⁰ A large epidemiologic study from the United Kingdom that analysed 1.3 million women found the risk of cirrhosis was increased by six times in the women who were obese and heavy drinkers compared with non-drinkers and two times higher compared with heavy drinkers alone.⁹¹ Similar effect of obesity has been shown in HCV-related liver disease. The HALT-C trial showed a higher rate of death or decompensation in patients who had a higher BMI. Each quartile increase in BMI was associated with a 14% increase in clinical events in the follow-up.⁹² Obesity has also been independently associated with infections in hospitalised patients with end-stage liver disease.⁹³ Weight loss in obese patients with cirrhosis and portal hypertension was significantly associated with decrease in HVP and reduced the progression of fibrosis and cirrhosis.⁹⁴

Morbid obesity has also been associated with an increased risk of death of patients on liver transplant waiting list, a decreased probability of liver transplantation and decreased post-transplant survival.^{95,96} The impact of obesity in patients with end-stage liver disease has been investigated in a large UNOS database retrospective study. The waitlist mortality was higher in morbidly obese patients.⁹⁷

Developing countries like India are facing a high risk of obesity and its adverse effects. As per a 2015 study, the prevalence of obesity in India is approximately 11.8%, and it was estimated that there were more than 135 million individuals affected by obesity in India.⁹⁸ Hence, many patients with cirrhosis may be obese but still have muscle wasting and patients with advanced disease warrant additional screening for malnutrition and muscle wasting irrespective of BMI.⁹⁹

Consensus statements

6. Obesity is a risk factor for the presence of severe fibrosis in alcohol and viral-related CLD, fibrosis progression, and cirrhosis. (*Level of evidence: moderate*)

7. Obesity is associated with increased morbidity and mortality, irrespective of the underlying aetiology of the liver disease. (*Level of evidence – moderate*)

Nutritional requirements in cirrhosis

Patients with cirrhosis are in a catabolic state characterized by reduced protein synthesis and enhanced proteolysis to provide fuel for gluconeogenesis. The process of gluconeogenesis requires energy and consequently increases the REE of patients with cirrhosis.¹⁰⁰ Hence, a relatively higher intake of total energy and proteins are needed in such patients. The REE of a healthy adult is 1 kcal/kg body weight/hour, that is, 24 kcal/kg/day. The total energy expenditure (TEE), of a hemodynamically stable patient with cirrhosis with a sedentary life style is 1.3 times the estimated REE (1.3×24 kcal/kg/day, i.e. 32 kcal/kg/day [range 30–35 kcal/kg/day]).^{2,3} In patients with obesity, recent guidelines support that a target of 5–10% weight loss could be achieved by reducing the estimated TEE by 500–800 Kcal/day.²

If possible, REE should actually be measured instead of formula-based estimation because measured REE could be higher than estimated REE in up to 35% of cirrhosis patients.¹⁰¹ While the gold standard to measure REE is indirect calorimetry, it is not available in most places.¹⁰²

A hand-held calorimeter is an easily available alternative bedside instrument but requires further validation in cirrhosis.^{103,104} The calculation of TEE should be based on dry weight. In a patient with ascites or oedema, we could estimate the dry weight by one of the following methods: (i) use of pre-ascites weight, if available (ii) calculate ideal body weight (IBW) based on height; the ideal BMI for Indian population ranges from 18 to 22.9 kg/m² (iii) post-paracentesis weight or (iv) empirically corrected body weight⁶⁸ by subtracting a percentage of weight based on severity of ascites (mild, 5%; moderate, 10%; severe, 15%) without or with bilateral pedal oedema (additional 5% subtracted if oedema is present).

While a healthy adult person needs 0.66 gm/kg of proteins every day,¹⁰⁵ the daily protein requirement in patients with cirrhosis is increased to 1.2 gm/kg¹⁰⁶ in the absence of malnutrition or 1.5 gm/kg in the presence of malnutrition.^{2,3} The diet should provide around 50–60% of total calories from carbohydrates, preferably complex carbohydrates, and 20–30% from fat. Among fats, saturated fatty acid should not contribute more than 10% of total calories, whereas monounsaturated fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids should contribute equally to the remaining portion of calories provided by fats.¹⁰⁷

Consensus statements

8. Patients with cirrhosis who is in hemodynamically stable state and have a sedentary life style, require 30–35 kcal/kg dry body weight/day. The protein intake should be 1.2 gm of proteins/kg/day in the absence of malnutrition

or 1.5 gm/kg/day in the presence of malnutrition. Carbohydrates should account for 50–60% of the calories and fats should be 20–30% of the calories. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN CIRRHOSIS

BMI is an inaccurate tool for nutritional assessment in patients with cirrhosis in the presence of ascites and oedema.

Nutritional screening tools

The waitlisted patient with low BMI [$< 18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$] or the one with high BMI [$>40 \text{ kg/m}^2$] and those who are Child–Turcotte–Pugh (CTP) C do not require nutritional screening for risk stratification as it is clear they are already at risk and that they require more detailed nutritional assessment.^{2,102} Nutritional screening is recommended in all other patients with cirrhosis.

To date, there are limited data on cirrhosis-specific nutrition screening tools. Within cirrhosis, there have been three tools, which have undergone preliminary evaluation,^{2,102}

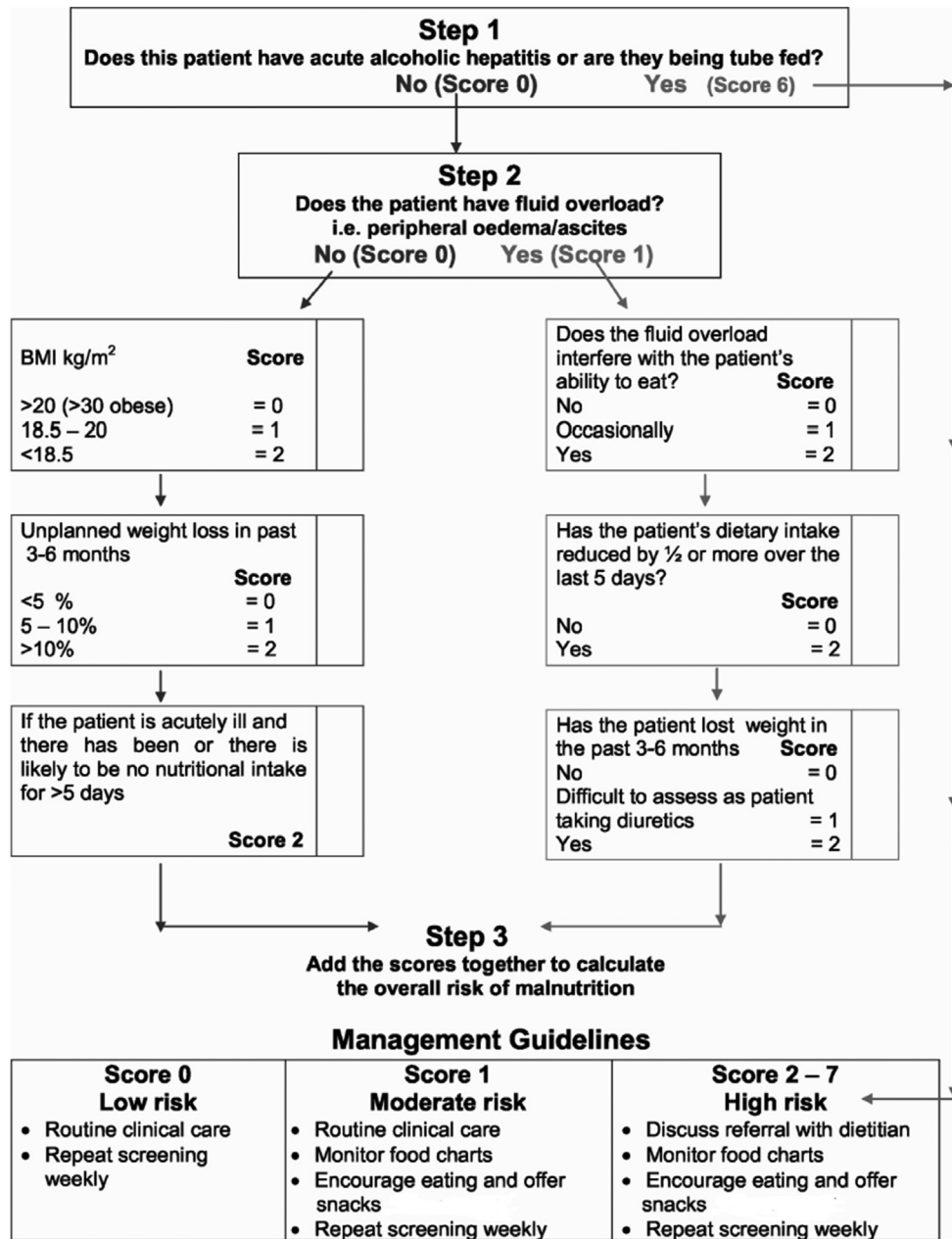


Figure 1 Royal Free Hospital-Nutritional Prioritizing Tool (RFH-NPT) for determining nutritional risk in cirrhosis (Reprinted with permission from Amadio P, Bemeur C, Butterworth R, Cordoba J, Kato A, Montagnese S, et al. The nutritional management of hepatic encephalopathy in patients with cirrhosis: International Society for Hepatic Encephalopathy and Nitrogen Metabolism Consensus. Hepatology. 2013;58(1):325-36.).

Box 1: Nutritional screening

- Overt malnutrition/high risk of malnutrition:
 - BMI of <18.5 kg/m²
 - BMI >40 kg/m²
 - Child-Pugh C disease
- Nutrition screening tests for other cirrhosis patients:
 - Royal Free Hospital-Nutritional Prioritizing Tool (RFH-NPT)
 - Nutrition Risk Screening-2002 (NRS 2002)
 - Liver Disease Undernutrition Screening Tool (LDUST).

the Royal Free Hospital-Nutritional Prioritizing Tool (RFH-NPT), the Nutrition Risk Screening-2002 (NRS 2002) and the Liver Disease Undernutrition Screening tool (LDUST).^{108,109} Although the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) has been recommended as the screening tool of choice by societies³ this incorporates BMI and weight loss, which are inaccurate in the presence of ascites/fluid retention. With the available evidence to date, the RFH-NPT is the most promising nutritional screening tool in patients with cirrhosis (Box 1). It discriminates patients into low-, medium- and high-risk categories. In the original study, 3% of patients scored 0 (low risk), 50% scored 1 (moderate risk) and 47% scored 2–7 (high risk) with dietitian referral recommended for the high-risk group. The RFH-NPT has been reported to correlate with liver-related complications including ascites, hepatorenal syndrome and HE.¹¹⁰ The various methods of nutritional screening are shown in Box 1. RFH-NPT for determining nutritional risk in cirrhosis is depicted in Figure 1.

Consensus statements

9. Patients who are CTP C or have a BMI of <18.5 kg/m² or >40 kg/m² have overt malnutrition or are at high risk of malnutrition. All other cirrhosis patients should undergo a rapid nutritional screen to risk stratify them for a more detailed nutritional assessment and intervention (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong).
10. Until further studies are performed, the Royal Free Hospital-Nutritional Prioritizing Tool (RFH-NPT) is a rapid evidence-based nutritional screen that can be used in patients with cirrhosis (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – weak).

Assessment of sarcopenia

The definition of sarcopenia has evolved over a period of time from generalized loss of skeletal muscle mass to loss of muscle strength and low physical performance. In non-cirrhosis populations, there are data to suggest that

muscle strength may be more sensitive than muscle mass in predicting adverse outcomes.⁵⁹

Cross-sectional imaging with CT scan or MRI is the accepted imaging tool to quantify the skeletal muscle mass. Abdominal CT scan is routinely done in patients with cirrhosis as second line imaging for screening of HCC and for evaluation for liver transplantation. CT scan provides an accurate, objective and reproducible measure of skeletal muscle mass, which is not affected by fluid retention.

The third lumbar (L3) SMI is used for quantifying sarcopenia. The skeletal muscles area is quantified using tissue-specific Hounsfield unit thresholds of –29 to +150.¹¹¹ There are different image analysis software packages available for calculating the total cross-sectional area of abdominal skeletal muscles at the L3 level. Cross-sectional area of muscles (psoas, erector spinae, quadratus lumborum, transversus abdominis, external and internal obliques and rectus abdominis) are measured at this level and are then normalised for stature (cm²/m²).¹¹² Cut-off values for the diagnosis of sarcopenia, derived from cirrhotic patients on the liver transplant list have been suggested to be less than 50 cm²/m² for men and less than 39 cm²/m² for women but need to be further validated, particularly outside of North America.¹¹³

Previous studies reported that the mean muscle mass of Asians is approximately 15% lower than that of Westerners even after height adjustments.^{114,115} Hence, it is important to establish criteria for evaluating and measuring sarcopenia in diverse ethnicities. Sidhu et al.¹² evaluated 3087 non-cirrhotic Indian patients without cirrhosis and found that the mean CT SMI was 41.25 ±4.42 in females and 44.33 ±6.56 in males, which is much less than that reported from West. Similarly, lower mean muscle mass has been reported in 149 Japanese subjects in whom the optimal cut-off values for CT L3 SMI to identify sarcopenia were calculated as 42 cm²/m² for men (AUC, 0.83; sensitivity, 89%; specificity, 57%) and 38 cm²/m² for women.¹¹⁶

Data with regard to MRI are even more scarce, and normal values are not available. Psoas muscle area and psoas muscle thickness/height (PMTH) have also been used to quantify sarcopenia although this method of assessment has been criticized.¹¹⁷ Cut-off value of <16.8 mm/m has been reported for sex-nonspecific PMTH sarcopenia.¹¹⁸ Sex-specific cut-offs of PMTH have been reported to be 17.3 mm/m in men and 10.4 mm/m in women.¹¹⁹ Ultrasound has also been used to identify sarcopenia. Tandon et al.¹²⁰ used thigh ultrasound to measure the thigh muscle index using both compression and no compression at two predetermined points on the thigh. They took two sets of readings a compression reading taken by pressing the probe downward until no further compression of the muscles was possible; and a feather-weight reading where the probe was held without pressure on the thigh. Measurements were averaged and corrected for stature (height squared) to calculate an average

compression index and an average feather index. They found that the average feather index was most strongly associated with sarcopenia in cirrhotic patients. Although promising, further validation is required.

Muscle attenuation on CT indirectly measures the infiltration of fat in the muscles or myosteatosis. The cut-off values associated with higher mortality risk in cirrhotics are <41 HU in patients with BMI up to 24.9 kg/m² and <33 HU in patients with BMI ≥ 25 kg/m².¹²¹

Assessment of body composition

The methods available for this are total body electrical conductivity, bioelectrical impedance, air displacement plethysmography, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) and magnetic resonance spectroscopy, the last two being imaging techniques. These methods can quantify body composition based on specific components like water, proteins and minerals. They can calculate the total body weight, the fat mass and the lean body mass.¹²² However, some of these methods are limited by routine availability, reproducibility and/or accuracy. Although DEXA is reproducible and involves only low-dose X-rays, it has the disadvantage of radiation exposure. Water retention due to ascites can also lead to overhydration and overestimation of the fat-free mass while using DEXA.¹²³ Both DEXA and CT can also be used to measure the bone mineral density (BMD), which can get depleted in patients with cirrhosis.

DEXA enables the estimation of the absolute level of skeletal muscle mass or appendicular skeletal muscle mass, which can be adjusted for body size in different ways, namely using height squared (ASM/height²), weight (ASM/weight) or body mass index (ASM/BMI).¹²⁴ However, the preferred adjustment and whether the same method can be used for all populations is still debatable. Despite the minimal radiation exposure from DEXA, using DEXA in community screening of sarcopenia is still difficult. The Asian Working Group for Sarcopenia (AWGS) recommends using height-adjusted skeletal muscle mass instead of weight-adjusted skeletal muscle mass, and the suggested cut-off values were 7.0 kg/m² in men and 5.4 kg/m² in women by using DEXA.¹²⁵

Bio-impedance analysis (BIA) has also been used for the assessment of sarcopenia. BIA has particularly become an attractive index because it is portable, non-invasiveness, no radiation exposure and is not costly. Sarcopenia is defined as patients with SMI using BIA <7.0 cm²/m² for males and <5.7 cm²/m² for females.¹²⁶ However, the major drawback of DEXA and BIA is distortion by hydration status and presence of oedema in cirrhosis.

Assessment of sarcopenic obesity

Patients with sarcopenic obesity develop simultaneous loss of skeletal muscle and gain of adipose tissue.^{53,121,127} Not

only is there muscle depletion, there may also be myosteatosis. Myosteatosis is defined by fat deposition in skeletal muscle, which can occur in both sarcopenic and non-sarcopenic patients, with or without obesity. Myosteatosis is associated with decreased strength and increases with age and adiposity.¹²⁸

There is no consensus on the definition of sarcopenic obesity due to the wide heterogeneity of diagnostic criteria, different modalities of body composition analysis and absence of well-defined population-based cut-offs.¹²⁹ BMI of ≥ 23 or ≥ 25 kg/m² corrected for ascites should be used to define obesity, and sarcopenia should be defined based on CT-based height corrected L3-SMI.¹³⁰

Assessment of muscle strength and physical performance

Measurements of muscle strength (HGS) and physical performance (gait speed) reflect overall functional reserve and frailty.¹³¹ The assessment of muscle strength can be easily done by measuring the HGS by a hand dynamometer. HGS is a simple, inexpensive and effective method to detect sarcopenia in cirrhotic patients. Because of the lack of outcome-based cut-off values, AWGS recommends using the lower 20th percentile of HGS of the study population as the cut-off value for low muscle strength before outcome-based data are available.¹²⁵ In Indians, mean HGS reported in non-cirrhotic population was 25.19 ± 7.57 kg in females versus 35.14 ± 8.56 kg in males ($p < 0.0001$).¹²

Gait speed is considered a quick, safe and highly reliable test for physical performance in sarcopenia. It can be widely used in clinical practice. The European consensus for gait speed recommends a cut-off speed ≤ 0.8 m/s for the 4-m usual walking speed test to be an indicator of severe sarcopenia.⁵⁹ However, the AWGS has revised the cut-off for gait speed. They recommend a cut-off of <1.0 m/s for a 6-m walk test to define reduced physical performance.¹²⁵

Assessment of frailty

Physical frailty overlaps with many other concepts in which muscle health is an objective feature - including concepts such as sarcopenia, disability, decreased energy expenditure and malnutrition. Sarcopenia in particular is a central component of frailty, but as discussed in a recent American Society of Transplantation consensus statement, it is important to note that frailty extends beyond sarcopenia to include muscle function and the patient's experience of their frailty state.¹³² Across a range of studies, physical frailty has been shown to be a robust independent predictor of transplant waitlist and post-transplant mortality, mortality after hospitalization, hospital length of stay and discharge location.¹³²⁻¹⁴¹

Box 2: Liver Frailty Index

- Components
 - **Dominant hand-grip strength:** the average of three attempts using a hand dynamometer
 - **Time to do five chair stands:** the time in seconds to stand up and down in a chair five times with the subject’s arms folded across the chest
 - **Balance testing:** measured as the number of seconds that the subject can balance in three positions (feet placed side to side, semi-tandem and tandem) for a maximum of 10 s each.
- Formula
 - $(-0.330 \times \text{gender-adjusted grip strength}) + (-2.529 \times \text{number of chair stands per second}) + (-0.040 \times \text{balance time}) + 6$

• Online calculator with instructions are available at: <http://liverfrailtyindex.ucsf.edu>. LFI scores of ≥ 4.5 indicated that patients are frail.

A wide range of frailty tools have been evaluated and found to have prognostic utility. These have included objective performance-based tools such as the Liver Frailty Index (LFI), the 6-min walk test and cardiopulmonary exercise testing as well as more subjective provider or patient-assessed frailty metrics such as the Karnofsky Performance Scale, Clinical Frailty Scale and Activities of Daily Living. It is suggested that at least one frailty tool be incorporated during the initial evaluation and longitudinal follow-up.¹³² In liver transplant listed patients, an objective performance-based tool is suggested compared with more subjective provider or patient-assessed frailty metrics. The more subjective frailty metrics have are time-efficient for a busy clinical practice setting and have also demonstrated a robust association with relevant clinical outcomes.^{136–139,142}

Table 2 Assessment of Sarcopenia.

Diagnostic parameter	Method of assessment	Cut-off of defined sarcopenia
Muscle mass	DEXA*	Men: 7.0 kg/m ² Women: 5.4 kg/m ²
	BIA*	Men: <7.0 cm ² /m ² Women: <5.7 cm ² /m ²
	CT SMI index: measure total muscle mass at the level of L3 divided by height squared	Men: < 42 cm ² /m ² Women: 38 cm ² /m ²
Muscle strength	Hand-grip strength	Men: <27 kg Women: <16 kg
Physical ability	Gait speed (4 m usual walking speed)	≤ 0.8 m/s

CT, computed tomography; BIA, bioelectrical impedance analysis; DEXA, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry; SMI, skeletal muscle index.

A recent study on the LFI, which includes grip strength, timed chair stands and balance testing, demonstrated that frailty was a stronger predictor of waitlist mortality than traditional factors such as ascites and HE.¹⁴³

Bedside tools for assessment of nutritional status

Physicians often assess muscle wasting and physical ability by the patients overall look and activity levels. However, these are subjective and may vary between clinicians. While it is not possible to objectively measure muscle mass at the bedside, muscle strength can be assessed easily by HGS and physical ability by walking speed. The cut-off of HGS is < 26 kg for men and <18 kg for women, and the cut-off walking speed is < 0.8 m/s. The addition of an objective measure like the LFI gives a more accurate prediction of frailty. The LFI includes grip strength, which is a marker of nutritional status; balance testing, which assesses neuromuscular function and chair stands, which are a marker of lower extremity weakness. It is a simple test that can be carried out on the bedside or in the outpatient setting. LFI score of ≥ 4.5 indicates that patients are frail instructions of LFI are available at <http://liverfrailtyindex.ucsf.edu>. The details of LFI calculation are shown in Box 2. The various methods to assess sarcopenia are given in Table 2.

Consensus statements

11. Cross-sectional imaging (CT or MRI) scans done for other indications can also be used to evaluate for sarcopenia using the L3-level SMI. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
12. Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) and Bioimpedance analysis (BIA) can also be used for assessment of skeletal muscle mass. However, these modalities may be affected by hydration status and presence of oedema in cirrhosis. (Level of evidence – low)
13. HGS can be used to detect muscle strength in cirrhotic patients (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
14. Gait speed can be used for assessment of physical performance in sarcopenia (Level of evidence – moderate, grade of recommendation – strong)
15. Physical frailty is a robust predictor of adverse clinical outcomes in cirrhosis. Every patient with cirrhosis, particularly those on the liver transplant waiting list, should be assessed both at baseline and in longitudinal follow-up using a standardized frailty tool. Although rapid frailty screens may be useful for an initial screen, to be sensitive enough to detect a change over time, objective performance-based frailty tools are suggested. The most suitable tool may vary depending on site-specific experience and resources and

preference (level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong).

Assessment of hepatic osteodystrophy

Osteoporosis is common in patients with cirrhosis making them at an increased risk of fractures. Bone loss in liver cirrhosis is more severe among trabecular bones, such as vertebrae, with a lesser impact on the cortical ones. This pattern of increased vertebral damage is similar to some findings observed in the elderly, leading to compression fractures, disability and spinal deformities. Assessment of BMD by using DEXA at lumbar vertebrae and femoral neck is considered as gold standard in the diagnosis of hepatic osteodystrophy. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), osteoporosis is defined as BMD less than 2.5 standard deviations compared with normal average value (T-score < -2.5); osteopenia is defined as T-score between -1 and -2.5.¹⁴⁴ In individuals less than 50 years of age, the Z-score is used, which represents BMD of patient compared with mean BMD of age-, race- and sex-matched controls.¹⁴⁵

A two-dimensional X-ray examination can be used to check the vertebrae before ordering a more expensive examination. Lumbar spine measurements may be unreliable in the elderly due to the presence of osteophytes, extraskelatal calcification and vertebral and/or spinal deformity.¹⁴⁶ Therefore, a lateral vertebral X-ray can be important as a complimentary examination to search for dorsal or lumbar spine fractures.¹⁴⁷

Presence of ascites in patients with cirrhosis may affect the accuracy of bone density measurement in the spine. Ascites can cause fluid artefact in the soft tissue and bone interface that can underestimate the real BMD value particularly in the lumbar spine. After paracentesis vertebral BMD values of 4.2–7% higher were observed. Paracentesis modified the diagnosis of osteoporosis or osteopenia in 12% of patients. Therefore, in patients with ascites, BMD should be preferentially measured soon after paracentesis, to avoid over-diagnosis of osteoporosis and osteopenia, particularly in the lumbar spine.^{148,149}

The prevalence of osteoporosis is higher in patients with cholestatic liver diseases and those who have received long-term steroids. The prevalence of osteoporosis in patients eligible for liver transplant is 30%.¹⁵⁰ Hence, these patients should be screened for osteoporosis. In patients with normal DEXA scan, it should be repeated every 2–3 years. DEXA scan should be repeated at 1–2 years in patients with osteopenia and in those receiving prolonged corticosteroids.

Consensus statements

16. A lateral vertebral X-ray may be done to search for dorsal or lumbar spine fractures, deformities. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

17. BMD should be preferentially measured soon after paracentesis in patients with cirrhosis with ascites to avoid over-diagnosis of osteoporosis and osteopenia, particularly in the lumbar spine. (Level of evidence – high; grade of recommendation – strong)
18. Evaluation of BMD measurement by DEXA should be done in patients with cirrhosis and in patients with chronic cholestatic diseases, those receiving long-term corticosteroid treatment and before liver transplantation. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
19. DEXA should be repeated after 2 to 3 years in patients within normal BMD, and within 2 years in patients with osteopenic BMD and within 1 year in patients receiving prolonged glucocorticoids. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

TREATMENT OF MALNUTRITION IN LIVER DISEASE

Common misconceptions in dietary advice in cirrhosis

There are several myths regarding pathogenesis and treatment of malnutrition in cirrhosis. For more than half a century, protein restriction has been one of the main treatments for HE.^{151–153} Older clinical observations had been reported that high protein intake may worsen encephalopathy in patients with cirrhosis¹⁵⁴, and it had become a universal practice to recommend low-protein diet to patients with cirrhosis. More recent studies have, however, shown that protein restriction has no major contribution in the treatment or prevention of HE.^{155,156} On the other hand, protein restriction/starvation has deleterious effect on muscles, which have an important function of buffering ammonia and providing amino acids for gluconeogenesis.¹⁵⁷

Another myth is that patients with cirrhosis should not consume fat. Patients with cirrhosis have poor glycogen reserves; hence, the energy extraction often shifts to fatty acid oxidation.^{158,159} The ready availability of fatty acids may spare muscle breakdown to some extent. Indian patients also have a belief that herbal products are safe, and there is no harm in trying them. There are now several reports of hepatotoxicity from these indigenous medicines and should be avoided in patients with liver disease.¹⁶⁰

Nutritional management principles in patients with cirrhosis

A good nutritional status plays an important role in the outcome of patients with cirrhosis and may even influence their survival.^{161–165} Nutritional management needs to start from a complete nutritional assessment, be followed by development of a nutritional care program and be maintained by monitoring the nutritional modifications

over time. Ideally a registered dietitian needs to be involved in the development of the nutritional program.¹⁶⁶ When carried out within the principles of strong patient engagement, inquiry into their beliefs around the benefit of a healthy diet and personalized patient education, nutritional counselling has the potential to adjust a patients' behavior.¹⁶⁷ In one study, counselling involving a multidisciplinary team (physicians, nurses, pharmacists and dietitians) was associated with better survival than counselling by just one professional.¹⁶⁸

Spontaneous dietary intake is usually inadequate in patients with cirrhosis, and unnecessary dietary restrictions are frequently adopted due to misunderstandings.^{169,170} Low dietary intake may be harmful in patients with cirrhosis where the hypermetabolism may be associated with a poor prognosis.¹⁷¹ As stated above, to accurately determine a nutrition prescription for these patients, a direct measurement of energy expenditure is recommended.¹⁷²

Patients with cirrhosis need to be supported by an adequate amount of energy and protein to avoid the activation of endogenous catabolic processes to derive energy. An adequate diet should reach the target of 30–35 kcal/kg/dry body weight/day (50–60% of calories as carbohydrates; 20–30% as fat) with 1.2–1.5 g protein/kg body weight/day.

Furthermore, the meal pattern during the day should prevent prolonged periods of fasting: early morning breakfast and late evening snacks have both been found to be beneficial in this regard. The composition and quality of the small snacks still need to be defined, but the presence of proteins has been shown to improve nitrogen balance and increase muscle mass in some studies. In a study by Plank and colleagues,¹⁷³ 103 patients with cirrhosis were randomized to either daytime or night-time supplementary nutrition of 710 Kcal per day. There was a significant improvement in total body protein and fat-free mass in the patients who received nocturnal supplementation. Similarly, a systematic analysis and review, showed that late-evening snack reverses the aberrant substrate utilization pattern, improved substrate utilization and nitrogen retention than daytime calorie supplementation alone, may improve health-related quality of life and survival and also may reduce the frequency and severity of HE.¹⁷⁴ Therefore, it is recommended that patients with cirrhosis should have their caloric and protein intake split into multiple, small, frequent meals (4–6 hourly). Higher protein content of breakfast and an energy-dense late evening snack comprising of complex polysaccharide (50 g) is also recommended to avoid an early onset, gluconeogenic starvation like state that further worsens the nutritional state of the patient.¹⁷³

Overweight or obese patients may benefit from a progressive weight normalization.¹⁷⁵ Energy intake in these patients should not be increased, and a moderate hypo-

caloric diet (–500 Kcal daily reduction) may be planned, following the patient periodically for adjustments. Protein intake needs to be maintained or even increased (1.5 g/kg weight/day) to achieve weight loss without inducing muscle catabolism.¹⁷⁶

In patients with HE, the protein intake should not be restricted but preferably be enriched by vegetable and dairy proteins.¹⁷⁷ BCAA can be used in case of protein intolerance to achieve the desired target of protein assumption.^{178,179}

Due to salt and water retention a moderate dietary sodium intake (2 g of sodium corresponding to 5 g of salt) is usually recommended in patients with ascites. However, evidence in this respect is controversial.¹⁸⁰ A reduction in sodium intake may, however, interfere with the patients approach to the diet compromising energy and protein intake.¹⁸¹

Consensus statements

20. Multidisciplinary nutrition support teams should do nutritional counselling and regular individualized follow-up. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
21. The optimal recommended daily calorie and protein requirements in patients with cirrhosis patients are calories 30–35 kcal/kg/day and proteins: 1.2–1.5 g/kg/d. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
22. Multiple, small, frequent meals (4–6 hourly) with complex carbohydrate-dense (50 g) bed-time snack and protein-rich breakfast are recommended. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Micronutrient and vitamin requirements

Patients with cirrhosis may develop deficiencies in water-soluble vitamins, particularly thiamine, and lipid-soluble vitamins such as vitamin D.² Decreased serum vitamin D levels¹⁸² and high prevalence of osteodystrophy¹⁸³ are seen in patients with cirrhosis. Supplementation of vitamin D may improve survival in vitamin D-deficient patients with cirrhosis.¹⁸⁴

At autopsy, histological features of Wernicke's encephalopathy were found in a quarter of patients who died of alcoholic cirrhosis and HE.¹⁸⁵ It is advisable to give thiamine to malnourished patients with chronic alcohol intake prior to glucose administration as it can precipitate Wernicke's encephalopathy.^{186,187}

Reduced magnesium content in muscle (with normal serum magnesium levels) have been correlated with presence of HE.¹⁸⁸ Zinc deficiency is common in patients with cirrhosis; however, the data are not convincing that zinc supplementation is beneficial in these patients.¹⁸⁹

Consensus statements

23. In patients with cirrhosis, micronutrient and vitamin deficiency, if identified clinically or by laboratory tests, should be corrected. (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
24. Fat-soluble vitamin supplementation is advisable to prevent deficiency in chronic cholestatic conditions. (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
25. Water-soluble vitamin supplementation is advisable to prevent deficiency in alcohol-related liver disease. Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)

Feeding methods: oral/enteral/parenteral

Patients with CLD may be candidates for supplementation of diet either by the enteral or parenteral route. The oral route is preferred for its many benefits – easy, cheap, less complications, more physiological. However, if adequate calories are not met via the oral route then the enteral route should be tried after due consideration given to the presence of varices, ileus and coagulopathy. The use of the parenteral route should be considered if enteral feeds are not an option.

While a meta-analysis of enteral nutritional supplementation has not shown any reduction in mortality, some studies either had very sick patients or a very short intervention duration, which may have impacted the potential for benefit.¹⁹⁰ Meta-analyses of nutritional supplementation in patients with alcoholic liver disease and alcoholic hepatitis (AH) showed a trend towards a better nitrogen balance with parenteral nutrition.^{191,192}

While both parenteral nutrition and early enteral nutrition (EN) after liver transplantation may be effective with regard to the maintenance of nutritional state, EN has been shown to reduce complication rates and costs.¹⁹³ Early EN (12 h after liver transplantation) may be associated with fewer viral infections and better nitrogen retention.¹⁹⁴

A contentious situation, is nasogastric tube feeding in patients with varices, especially after a recent variceal bleed and variceal ligation. While a study has shown no adverse effect of EN, it has been recommended to withhold EN for 48–72 h after acute bleeding.^{195,196}

Approach to the management of sarcopenia in patients with cirrhosis

Sarcopenia in cirrhosis should be treated by a combined approach based on adequate energy and protein dietary intake, oral nutrient supplementation when needed and regular physical exercise. Additional pharmacological therapy has also been proposed in some circumstances.¹⁹⁷

Patients with cirrhosis experience protein depletion and require an increased amount of protein to achieve positive nitrogen balance.^{198–200} Increased protein intake is generally well tolerated and safe in cirrhotic patients and has been shown to improve protein anabolism.²⁰¹

Vitamin D deficiency has been associated with sarcopenia in older adults.²⁰² Vitamin D has also been shown to preserve muscle mass²⁰³ or ameliorate the low-grade inflammatory syndrome in sarcopenic older individuals when associated with leucine-enriched whey protein²⁰⁴ and has been recommended in all patients with cirrhosis with low vitamin D levels.²

Chronic hyperammonemia (HA) has been shown to be involved in the pathophysiology of sarcopenia in patients with liver cirrhosis.^{205,206} Ammonia-lowering treatments may theoretically be of advantage for improving sarcopenia.^{207,208} In one study, L-carnitine supplementation suppressed the progression of sarcopenia and was associated with the improvement of HA in patients with liver cirrhosis.²⁰⁹

Testosterone levels have been found to be decreased in men with advanced CLD and are associated with decreased muscle mass, increased risk of mortality, need for liver transplantation and increased risk of major infections.²¹⁰ In a randomized controlled trial (RCT), testosterone therapy in men with cirrhosis and low serum testosterone safely increased muscle mass, bone mass and haemoglobin in the treated group.²¹¹

Immunonutrition is another aspect of nutritive modulation and involves modification of either activation of immune system or the consequences of activation by nutrients or specific foods.²¹² Major nutrients that fall under this category include amino acids (glutamine and arginine), fatty acids (mega-3 fatty acid supplements) and nucleotides. The use of immunonutrition for patients with cirrhosis has been a matter of debate. Most of the studies have looked at use of arginine-enriched, glutamine-enriched, or w-3 fatty acid-enriched supplements in these patients. The studies have shown variable results, and consistent with existing guidelines,² there is insufficient evidence for prescribing their use in cirrhosis.²¹³

Advice regarding exercise in cirrhotics and post liver-transplant patient

Patients with cirrhosis have very high rates of frailty, sarcopenia and deconditioning. In a systematic review of 1107 patients awaiting liver transplantation cardiopulmonary exercise test results were pooled. Despite a mean age of 55 (SD 3.2) years, the weighted mean peak VO₂ of participants was 17.4 ml/kg/minute a value corresponding to expected VO₂ levels of a sedentary female in the eighth decade of life and below the threshold required for full and

independent living.²¹⁴ Notably, patients with cirrhosis have amongst the highest levels of physical inactivity, spending ~76% of their waking hours in the sedentary state.²¹⁵ In comparison with other organ failure populations (e.g. lung, heart), the evidence to support exercise training in patients with cirrhosis is still in its beginning stages.²¹⁶

Physical exercise was previously discouraged in patients with cirrhosis due to the fear of increasing portal hypertension or ammonia levels.²¹⁷⁻²¹⁹ There is accumulating evidence about the potential beneficial effect of regular physical activity in these patients.²²⁰⁻²²⁴ A program of physical activity has been able to increase aerobic capacity and improve sarcopenia. Resistance exercise may also be essential to the preservation of lean body mass and bone density in obese cirrhosis patients who are undergoing weight loss. To perform a program of physical activity in patients with cirrhosis requires some key considerations: an accurate examination of feasibility considering cardiovascular or pulmonary contraindication, presence of HE, tense ascites, frailty, history of falls, risk of GI bleeding; personalized program starting with a progressive approach from very light exercise to mild-moderate intensity physical activity including counselling to increase patient's motivation to the tasks to be reached and adequate energy dietary assumption before starting to exercise.^{216,220} It has been proposed the final target to be a total of 150 min exercise per week to be reached gradually.²¹⁶ Both aerobic and resistance training may be combined in different proportion to favour either aerobic or sarcopenia improvement.²¹⁶

What have the exercise studies shown in cirrhosis?

The last 5 years have seen a growing number of studies evaluating the effects of exercise in cirrhosis.²²⁵⁻²³¹ To date, studies have had modest sample sizes with programs of up to 14 weeks of activity and a predominance of patients with compensated cirrhosis. Both supervised and home-based exercise studies have been carried out. The exercise studies have not reported significant adverse events. Notably, across individual studies, the short training durations have been associated with significant improvements in peak VO₂ levels, aerobic endurance as measured by the 6-min walk test, muscle mass as measured by anthropometrics and thigh ultrasound, quality of life, reductions in fatigue and increases in muscle strength. Several studies have associated the exercise interventions with a reduction in the hepatic venous pressure gradient from the beginning to the end of the study.^{228,229} A recent Cochrane review of six RCTs did not find a clear pooled benefit of exercise on morbidity, mortality or health-related quality of life.²³²

What steps can clinicians follow to prescribe exercise in cirrhosis?

If clinicians do not have ready access to an exercise professional to assist them to prescribe exercise, they can follow three steps outlined in a recent review to initiate a basic exercise prescription in their patients:²¹⁶

- i) **Screen for safety to exercise** – If activities are kept to the demand of a brisk walk, routine pre-participation cardiac clearance is not required. Patients at high risk of falls require supported activities and ideally should be supervised by a caregiver.
- ii) **Baseline assessment of sarcopenia/frailty** – As described in sections above, an objective baseline assessment allows for an accurate assessment of response to the intervention.
- iii) **Formulate an exercise prescription** – This can be based on the FITT (Frequency, Intensity, Type, Time) format dividing activity components into aerobic, resistance and flexibility/balance with overall time increasing as the patient becomes more comfortable. Although patients will often start at a more basic level, eventual targets include 150 min per week of aerobic activity and 2 or more days per week of resistance, flexibility and balance work at an intensity of 4–5 on a 10-point Borg scale. Resistance, flexibility and balance exercises can range from supported to more advanced with examples provided online at the www.wellnesstoolbox.ca.²¹⁶

After liver transplantation, overweight and obesity are common and sarcopenia and frailty persist in most patients. More evidence is required to evaluate the optimal regimen and effects of exercise in the post-transplant setting.²³³

Consensus statements

26. Individual exercise studies in cirrhosis have demonstrated beneficial effects on exercise capacity (VO₂), muscle mass, muscle strength, the hepatic venous pressure gradient and quality of life. Larger high-quality studies with global representation, longer follow-up and inclusion of CTP B and C patients are required to clarify the extent of the pre- and post-transplantation effects (level of evidence – moderate).
27. Wherever possible, all patients with cirrhosis should be given an exercise prescription consisting of recommendations for frequency, intensity, type and time of activity including aerobic, resistance and flexibility/balance components. The tenant of 'start low and go slow' can be used to advance exercise in this population. Those patients at fall risk require consideration for supervised, supported activities (level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong).

28. After liver transplantation, overweight and obesity are common and sarcopenia and frailty often persist. Exercise therapy in conjunction with nutritional counselling is advised (level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong).

Ideal nutritional supplements

Over the last 20–25 years, Indian markets and pharmacies have been flooded with a plethora of EN supplements or formulas. There are very few RCTs in support of their use for most of the formulas.^{234–236} The nutritional formulas can be polymeric (generic or disease specific), pre-digested formulas (elemental or semi-elemental) or modular formulas. While commercially available supplements give a more accurate delivery of nutrients than food, the cost of the supplements may be a deterrent in resource constraints.

Standard polymeric formulas

The nutrient composition of these formulas matches a typical diet consumed by healthy individuals. These formulas are nutritionally complete, by and large contain ‘intact’ or ‘non-hydrolysed’ nutrients and are best suited for patients with an intact and functional digestive tract. Most of these formulas are lactose-free and gluten-free with an osmolarity close to the physiological range ~300 mOsmol/litre. They contain ~40–60% of carbohydrates as their main macronutrient. Most commonly used sources of carbohydrates are maltodextrin, corn syrup solids, hydrolysed starch, fructose, sugar alcohols and sometimes sucrose. Some formulas may contain starch; however, this may decrease the solubility of the formula. The addition of sucrose usually increases the palatability of a formula. Standard polymeric formulas contain intact or whole proteins in the order of 15–25% of the total energy; hence, they require normal levels of pancreatic and digestive enzymes for digestion and absorption. The total content of protein may range from 30 to 80 g/L with a non-protein calorie to nitrogen ratio (NPC:N) between 75:1 and 200:1. Most common sources of protein include milk proteins (casein, de-lactosed lactalbumin, whey protein concentrates), soy protein isolates, egg white albumin and peanut protein hydrolysate. Addition of fat to the enteral formulas provides not only a concentrated source of energy but also a source of essential fatty acids and even helps in regulating the osmolarity of the formula. Lipids are present in the concentration ranging from 25 to 40% of the total calories mainly as triglycerides of long-chain or medium-chain fatty acids. The sources of lipids could be corn oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, canola oil, palm oil or even some

amounts of medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs). If a patient is fed on exclusive tube feeding with these formulas then typically a 1–1.5 L of the standard formula would meet 100% of the recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) of most vitamins and minerals. However, certain formulas may contain increased amounts of some micronutrients like copper, sodium, potassium etc., which may require close monitoring and clinical judgement.

Monomeric and oligomeric formulas

Monomeric formulas

These formulas are also called the elemental formulas (a misnomer, as their chemical composition does not have simple elements C, N, O). These formulas contain individual amino acids, glucose, oligosaccharides and low amounts of lipids (2–3% of calories) in the form of MCTs or even essential fatty acids along with essential micronutrients like minerals, vitamins and trace elements. Nonetheless these products have high osmolarity (~500–900 mOsmol/L); hence, they may cause increased losses of fluids in some cases of short bowel syndrome etc.

Oligomeric formulas

These formulas are also called semi-elemental formulas. The macronutrients of these formulas unlike the polymeric formulas have been enzymatically hydrolyzed or pre-digested to promote easy digestion and absorption. These are usually lactose-free and gluten-free but have a high osmolarity. These formulas typically have peptides of varying chain length (mostly as dipeptide or tripeptide), simple sugars, glucose polymers (disaccharides and maltodextrin) or fat primarily as MCTs) or even omega 3 and omega 6 essential fatty acids. They contain the recommended doses of all micronutrients. The osmolarity of semi-elemental diets is lower than elemental formulas. These formulas are best suited for patients with inflammatory bowel disease, short bowel syndrome, fistulas, radiation enteritis in cancer patients, pancreatitis or critically ill patients. However, these semi-elemental formulas often have poor taste (caused by amino acids), and higher costs (~400% more than polymeric formulas),²³⁷ and may cause complications like osmotic diarrhoea due to high osmolarity. These products may even hamper glycemic control due to a rapid gastric emptying rate.²³⁸ Routine use of elemental or semi-elemental formulas is not recommended except in cases of malabsorption, pancreatic dysfunction, chyle leak or other evidence of GI diseases. Hence, these formulas are preserved for patients who have failed a trial of standard polymeric formulas.²³⁶

Hepatic formulas

Characteristically, these formulas have lower percentage of total protein and electrolytes, a higher percentage of carbohydrates, high calorie to nitrogen ratio (>180:1) and high MCT in the lipid fraction (MCT:LCT ratio 70:30 compared with standard formula with a ratio of 20:80). These products may also contain S-adenosyl methionine (SAME), taurine and carnitine. These are calorie-dense formulas, which have higher proportions of BCAA and low levels of aromatic amino acids (AAAs) and methionine. It is well known that protein should not be restricted in patients with cirrhosis due to the rampant problem of reduced muscle mass. Addition of BCAA to the formulas increases the overall cost. Addition of SAME, taurine and carnitine act as a precursor for the synthesis of glutathione, protect against xenobiotic injury and act as essential components for the beta oxidation of fat, respectively.

CLINICAL SCENARIOS REQUIRING SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN A PATIENT WITH CIRRHOSIS

Nutritional treatment options for hepatic encephalopathy

Malnutrition and sarcopenia directly play a significant role in development of recurrent and overt HE apart from predisposing patients to infections.^{55,84,239-241} Hence, the nutritional management options in HE should focus on prevention and/or delaying progression of sarcopenia, long-term ammonia-lowering drugs/dietary interventions and supplementation of micronutrient deficiencies. The pertinent questions for nutritional treatment options for HE are given below.

Is there any benefit of tailored nutritional therapy in cirrhosis with HE?

Maharshi et al.²⁴² in a RCT, in 120 patients with minimal HE (MHE), showed that nutritional intervention (30–35 kcal/kg IBW/d, 1.0–1.5 g vegetable protein/kg/d for 6 months) improved neuropsychiatric performance in these patients with MHE and decreased their risk of developing overt HE compared with no nutritional intervention.

Hence, all patients with cirrhosis and HE should undergo detailed nutritional assessment via anthropometric and imaging tools available and should be recommended and followed up with adequate nutritional therapy and advised as opposed to normal diet, by a multidisciplinary nutrition support team.

Is caloric requirement different in patients with cirrhosis with HE versus cirrhosis alone?

Cirrhosis is a hypercatabolic state and energy requirements in patients with cirrhosis per se and cirrhosis with HE are

considered to be the similar.¹⁷⁷ Higher protein content should be given for breakfast as it improves cognitive function in cirrhotic patients with cognitive impairment.²⁴³

Is there any role of protein restriction?

In 1950s, based on largely uncontrolled observations, restriction of protein intake in patients with cirrhosis became an accepted standard of care. In 2004, Cordoba et al.²⁴⁴ assessed hospitalized patients with cirrhosis and HE who received different amounts of dietary proteins. Authors concluded that a normal-protein diet was safe and did not exacerbate HE and suggested that low-protein diets should be abandoned. In light of this evidence, nutrition guidelines then proposed that protein restriction should be avoided in patients with HE as protein requirements are increased in cirrhosis. Studies also showed that cirrhotic patients are able to use up to 1.8 g/kg IBW/d of protein.²⁴⁵ In a study of plasma amino acid response to meals in patients with liver cirrhosis, while there was accumulation of some amino acids in response to a high protein meal in patients with decompensated cirrhosis, it did not precipitate HE.²⁴⁶

Does source of protein matter: vegetable/dairy proteins versus animal proteins?

Vegetable/dairy proteins are presumably better tolerated than animal proteins in patients with advanced liver disease and cirrhosis as they have low levels of ammonia-genic amino acids like methionine and AAAs like tryptophan, phenylalanine and tyrosine.²⁴⁷ Bianchi et al.²⁴⁸ in their randomized, crossover comparison study, associated vegetable protein with improved nitrogen balance, increased average daytime integrated blood glucose (BG) and improved clinical grading of HE. Vegetable protein with an abundance of dietary fibre can increase nitrogen incorporation and elimination by the gut by decreasing the intestinal transit time and increasing the intraluminal pH and faecal ammonia excretion.^{249,250} Moreover, dairy (casein) proteins may be better tolerated than are proteins from mixed sources in patients with HE. Gheorghe et al.²⁴⁹ reported improvement of HE using a modified high-calorie, high-protein diet. Vegetable- and milk-derived protein was initiated to ensure that an adequate energy requirement of 30 kcal/kg/d and protein requirement of 1.2 protein g/kg/d were met. This high-calorie, high-protein diet improved mental status in about 80% of the study population. However, evidence emerging from clinical studies is not yet conclusive, primarily due to the heterogeneity of the diets used, the small number of patients treated, their different clinical conditions and the poor assessment of encephalopathy. Moreover, long-term vegetarian diets are often associated with insufficient calcium, iron, energy and protein intake.²⁵¹

Therefore, patients may be recommended to increase their intake of vegetable proteins. However, to meet protein

requirements, these may need to be supplemented with the consumption of BCAA or other high biological value proteins such as eggs, lean animal meats such as fish, chicken, turkey and dairy, while avoiding excessive red meat consumption.²⁵²

Role of supplementation with oral BCAA

Plasma levels of BCAAs (leucine, isoleucine, valine) are decreased as part of a deranged amino acid homeostasis in cirrhosis. There is increasing evidence for BCAAs being beneficial in HE by their effect on ammonia detoxification outside the liver via effects on skeletal muscle protein synthesis.²⁵³ A recently published Cochrane review,²⁵⁴ assessing the effects of BCAAs on HE in cirrhosis included 16 RCTs comprised of 827 participants with HE classified as OHE (12 trials) or MHE (four trials). Seven trials assessed intravenous BCAAs, and eight trials assessed oral BCAA supplements. The control groups received placebo/no intervention (2 trials), diets (10 trials), lactulose (2 trials) or neomycin (2 trials). The meta-analyses showed that BCAAs have a beneficial effect on HE manifestations with an NNT of five patients and a relative risk reduction to 0.73. BCAAs had no effect on mortality. The evidence associated was oral but not intravenous BCAAs with beneficial effects. In sarcopenic patients with cirrhosis, in addition to the beneficial effects on HE, the muscle build-up resulting from BCAAs may carry important improvements in daily living and quality of life.

Consensus statements

29. Restriction of protein intake is detrimental to already malnourished cirrhosis patients and is not recommended. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
30. There is weak evidence that vegetable proteins are better than animal proteins. To meet protein requirement, vegetable proteins may need to be supplemented by BCAA or animal proteins. (Level of evidence – weak; grade of recommendation – strong)
31. BCAA supplementation (leucine rich) is recommended to reach adequate dietary nitrogen intake. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – weak)
32. Oral dietary intake is preferred in patients with early HE and in those who can tolerate recommended intake. In patients with advanced HE or with protected airways and in those who are not able to take recommended intake, nasogastric tube feeding or parenteral nutrition should be considered. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Nutritional treatment options for critically ill patient with cirrhosis

Patients with cirrhosis who have ACLF, are septic or in HE or have spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) or hepa-

torenal syndrome and are being managed in ICU, have higher nutritional requirements due to a net catabolic state.^{255,256} Further, their nutrient intake can be compromised because of additional factors such as vomiting, GI bleeding, SBP and ileus, hours of fasting for procedures, protein restriction in advanced encephalopathy and inadequate tube feeding protocols. For these reasons, the nutrient requirements for critically ill patients with cirrhosis are higher, similar to any sick ICU patient,²⁵⁷ and should be replenished as a priority.

TEE and REE are increased in cirrhotics.¹⁰⁰ Although there are no direct studies comparing the TEE or REE in critically ill patients with cirrhosis, it is anticipated that patients admitted to ICU with complications will have a net catabolic state and therefore the caloric requirement would be higher. One study has documented that higher REE in patients with cirrhosis (a proportion of which had severe liver disease) was associated with lower survival.²⁵⁸ The recommended calorie intake in critically ill patients with cirrhosis should be at least 30–35 kcal/kg/day. The recommended protein intake in critically ill patients with cirrhosis should be at least 1.2–1.5 gm/kg/day.

Nutritional treatment options for alcoholic hepatitis

Among all aetiologies of CLD, malnutrition is most common among patients with alcoholic liver disease and almost all patients admitted with AH have malnutrition.²⁵⁹ Overall, AH has a high mortality.²⁶⁰ Combination of malnutrition,²⁶¹ infections²⁶² and organ failure²⁶³ determines the outcome in AH.

The first and most important step in the management of AH is abstinence from alcohol. Data from the STOPAH trial²⁶⁴ suggest that abstinence is associated with better survival among AH patients compared with those who reduce drinking or continue drinking.

A study from the United States, which included Veterans, reported higher mortality (>80%) among AH patients with total calorie intake less than 1000 kcal/d, compared with those consuming >3000 kcal/d. The risk of mortality varied inversely with the daily calorie consumption.²⁵⁹ In an RCT, 6 months of survival was shown to be similar among patients who received intensive EN plus methylprednisolone compared with those who received conventional nutrition plus methylprednisolone. Importantly, a greater proportion of patients who consumed daily calories <21.5 kcal/kg/d died, compared with those who consumed more calories (65.8% vs. 33.1%, $P < 0.001$).²⁶⁵

In an RCT, patients received either enteral ($n = 35$) nutrition (2000 kcal/d) or prednisolone ($n = 36$) 40 mg/d for a total of 28 days.²⁶⁶ The patients were followed up for a 1-year duration. Overall, on the intention to treat analysis, the mortality was similar in both groups (31% vs. 36%). Importantly, patients randomized to

enteral feeding died early (median 7 days) compared with those receiving steroids (median 23 days). The mortality during follow-up was higher in patients randomized to steroids compared with those who received EN (37.0% vs. 8.3%, $P = 0.04$). The higher mortality among the steroid group was predominantly due to infections. A meta-analysis of seven RCTs did not show survival benefit among AH patients with nutritional supplementation compared with a normal balanced diet.²⁶⁷ However, there was a significant improvement in HE with nutritional supplementation.

Vitamin A, folic acid, thiamine, pyridoxine, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin D and vitamin E are commonly deficient in alcoholics, and these need to be supplemented. Apart from vitamins, supplementation of elements such as iron, calcium, magnesium, phosphorous, selenium and zinc should be done when appropriate.

Consensus statements

33. Patients should be counselled for complete abstinence of alcohol. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
34. Assessment for nutritional deficiencies – calories, proteins, vitamins and minerals should be done in all patients. In the presence of deficiencies, supplementation should be provided. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Nutritional support in gastrointestinal bleeding

Traditionally, early feeding after gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding had been avoided due to risk of rebleeding and the risk of precipitating encephalopathy by increased protein load in GI bleeding.

It was believed that early feeding could cause a shift in blood flow to the splanchnic circulation, which could increase portal pressure and increase risk of variceal rebleeding.²⁶⁸ However, in an RCT, there was no difference in rebleeding, nutritional status, liver function, duration of hospital stay and mortality among those with and without nasogastric tube feed for 4 days immediately after bleeding when observed over a follow-up of 35 days.²⁶⁹ A recent meta-analysis of five trials involving 313 patients concluded that compared with delayed EN, early EN group had similar rebleeding rate and mortality but reduced hospitalized days.²⁷⁰ In patients with high risk of rebleeding, patient may be kept nil orally for 24–48 h if a repeat endoscopic procedure is anticipated.

The second concern about feeding after a variceal bleed is that the increased protein load in the intestines may lead to increased ammonia production and precipitates HE. Brief protein restriction may be advisable in patients where persistent bleeding leads to prolonged HE.² Parenteral nutritional supplementation is rarely needed but is likely to have a beneficial role during prolonged periods of

poor oral intake in refractory GI bleeding or associated ileus.

Consensus statements

35. Early EN within 24 h after GI bleeding may reduce hospital stay without higher risk of rebleeding and mortality compared with delayed EN. After treatment for bleeding, patients at low risk for rebleeding can be fed early. (Level of evidence – moderate; strength of recommendation – weak)
36. Protein restriction is usually not advisable but may be considered in those with refractory bleed-related persistent HE. (Level of evidence – low; strength of recommendation – weak)

Salt intake in ascites/hyponatremia

Salt restriction is the main stay of ascites management because cirrhosis, portal hypertension resultant splanchnic vasodilatation and neuro-humoral responses, induce positive sodium balance due to impaired renal sodium excretion.²⁷¹ But the major issue with salt restriction is higher risk for malnutrition as there is poor intake due to impaired palatability.²⁷² Also, strict salt restriction (<5gm/day) is associated with higher incidence of hyponatremia and diuretic-induced renal impairment.²⁷³ With moderate salt restriction (5–6 gm/day) the development of above is hyponatremia, and renal impairment is less frequent, but the dose of diuretics required is higher.²⁷⁴

Hyponatremia in cirrhosis can be hypovolemic or hypovolemic. Intravenous normal saline along with diuretic withdrawal is the main treatment in hypovolemic hyponatremia. Fluid restriction is needed in hypervolemic type. Hypertonic saline is indicated only in cases presenting with life-threatening complications (seizures, cardiopulmonary distress or coma). The use of vaptans is restricted to clinical trials only.²

Nutritional management of patients with cirrhosis around liver transplantation and non-transplant surgery

Nutritional management of a waitlisted patients is as important a component of patient management as prescription medicines. Nutritional rehabilitation of waitlisted patients is similar to that of the general recommendations. For patients who have a long wait list period [1–3 months or longer, which is generally the case in most deceased donor programs in the country], the effect of dietary intervention should be assessed using objective parameters such as gait speed, 6 min walk test, improvement in frailty scores, HGS and anthropometric measurements.

Post liver transplant, patients should be initiated on early enteral feeds in the post-operative period [less than

12 h after surgery]. In the first 48 h after liver transplant, the caloric intake should be pegged at 20 kcal/kg IBW/day, although the protein intake should be maintained at 1.2–1.5 gm/kg/day. ParEN should be reserved for those in whom the bowel cannot be engaged. The negative nitrogen balance of a cirrhosis patient persists after the liver transplant, and this may last for 12 months post-liver transplant. After liver transplant, the general well-being and increased oral intake allows components of metabolic syndrome to get well and truly established, while the poor physical activity scale and ongoing negative nitrogen balance does not permit a commensurate increase in muscle mass. This syndrome of sarcopenic obesity with one or more components of metabolic syndrome should be looked for and be a part of active intervention, apart from regular immunosuppression.

Elective non-liver transplant surgery is rarely performed in patients with decompensated CLD. In situations such as elective umbilical hernia repair, hepatectomy for HCC, surgery for diverticular disease of the colon, the patient may benefit from nutritional intervention or rehabilitation. In addition, importance should be given to physical exercise for improving muscle strength. For early recovery after surgery, there should ideally be shortening of period of fasting pre-operatively, specific avoidance of opiates for pain management and early mobility after the procedure.²⁷⁵

Consensus statements

37. Nutritional status of patients with cirrhosis waitlisted for liver transplantation influences the waitlist mortality as well as post-transplant complications and survival. (Level of evidence – high; strength of recommendation – strong)
38. Diagnosis of sarcopenia and frailty should be an integral part of pre-transplant assessment, as they affect post-transplant outcome and are amenable to correction while the patient awaits transplantation. (Level of evidence – high; strength of recommendation – strong)
39. Patients with cirrhosis who are awaiting non-transplant surgery should be nutritionally rehabilitated if the surgery is elective. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Approach and management of obesity in patients with cirrhosis

Management of obesity in patients with cirrhosis may differ depending on the disease severity (compensated or decompensated). In compensated cirrhosis, weight reduction is largely based on lifestyle modifications with no data on the use of anti-obesity drugs and a small amount of data on bariatric surgery. A weight reduction of 5–10% is usually an adequate goal.² Due to the risk of worsening sar-

copenia, only moderate calorie restriction (500–800 Kcal/day) is recommended while maintaining adequate protein intake (>1.5 g/kg ideal BW/day).² There is lack of data regarding the type and intensity of exercise; because of the risk worsening of portal pressure with increasing abdominal pressure, provided varices are surveyed for and managed, moderate intensity exercise (a combination of aerobic and resistance), tailored as per the patients' ability can be recommended in patients with compensated cirrhosis with obesity.^{276,277} There are no data on the use of anti-obesity drugs like orlistat, lorcaserin, phentermine, bupropion-naltrexone, liraglutide or newer drugs in patients with compensated cirrhosis; hence, these cannot be recommended in this population.

Of the various bariatric surgeries, there are data regarding the use of laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG), adjustable gastric banding and Roux-en-Y gastric bypass in patients.²⁷⁸ LSG is usually the preferred bariatric surgery in patients with cirrhosis because of some evidence of less operative time and reduced morbidity, availability of gastric tube for future endoscopic interventions to tackle varices and access to biliary tract post liver transplant and better absorption of drugs.^{279,280} Bariatric surgery with standard indications has been done in patients with either known compensated cirrhosis or cirrhosis detected incidentally at the time of bariatric surgery. Sharpton et al.²⁸¹ have reported good results of sleeve gastrectomy in 32 obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis who were liver transplant candidates.

Obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis subjected to liver transplantation have high peri-operative morbidity and mortality, hence, ideally would need weight reduction prior to liver transplantation. Even though practically difficult, lifestyle modifications can be individualized in obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis. Only one case report has shown the efficacy of the anorectic anti-obesity drug lorcaserin (selective 5-HT_{2c} [serotonergic] receptor agonist) in a patient with decompensated cirrhosis prior to liver transplantation.²⁸² Hence, the only option in obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis would be the endoscopic bariatric therapy and bariatric surgery done before, during or after the liver transplantation. Of the various endoscopic bariatric therapies, there is only one report on the use of intra-gastric balloon in cirrhotic patients with obesity prior to liver transplantation. Eight patients with either decompensated cirrhosis (n = 7) or HCC (n = 1) listed for liver transplantation with BMI >40 kg/m² or BMI between 35 and 40 (with a low graft to recipient weight ratio) underwent intragastric balloon placement and dietary counselling. All patients except one had weight loss, and five of them had successful liver transplantation. None of patients had any serious complications, and three of five patients maintained weight loss post-transplant as well.²⁸³ Intra-gastric balloons, however, cannot be placed in all patients with cirrhosis and are contraindicated in

those with large or high-risk oesophageal or gastric varices, severe coagulopathy, ulceration, in addition to the usual contraindications like prior gastro-oesophageal surgery, large hiatal hernia, oesophageal stenosis or motility disorders and unwilling for modified diet and behaviour modification. There are no data on the use of endoscopic gastroplasty techniques like endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty and primary obesity surgery endoluminal in for the treatment of obesity in compensated and decompensated cirrhosis. Even though small intestinal endoscopic devices like endobarrier, gastrodudeonojejunal bypass sleeve, duodenal mucosal resurfacing and self-assembling magnets look promising in non-cirrhotic obese patients, there are no data of their use in patients with cirrhosis. Morbidity and mortality in patients with cirrhosis undergoing bariatric surgery is higher than patients without cirrhosis and further increases in patients with decompensated cirrhosis.^{284,285} Thus, the decision to perform bariatric surgery before, during and after liver transplantation in patients with decompensated cirrhosis has to be individualized.²⁸⁶⁻²⁸⁹

Dietary modification and exercise are the cornerstone of management of patients with NASH. A reduction in the consumption of saturated fatty acids, total fat, trans-fatty acids and fructose is recommended. Mediterranean diet appears to be beneficial in patients with NASH.²⁹⁰ Mediterranean diet has a high intake of olive oil, which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids, nuts, fruits, legumes, vegetables and fish, and a low intake of red meat and high sugar food. However, Mediterranean diet also includes red wine in moderation, which cannot be recommended in patients with cirrhosis. The Mediterranean diet was also associated with a lower risk of liver cancer.²⁹¹

Weight losses of at least 5% can improve hepatic steatosis with a weight loss of 7–10% necessary to have significant improvements in the liver histology of obese and overweight patients with NASH.²⁹² However, there is less evidence in NASH with cirrhosis, and these patients are at increased risk of debilitation and frailty.

Consensus statements

40. A weight reduction of 5–10% is usually adequate in obese patients with cirrhosis and can be achieved with moderate calorie restriction with adequate protein intake and exercise as per patient's ability (Level of evidence – Low; grade of recommendation – weak)
41. Because of the lack of data, anti-obesity drugs cannot currently be recommended for use in patients with cirrhosis (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
42. In the absence of contraindications, endoscopic bariatric therapy with intra-gastric balloon can be attempted in obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis prior to liver transplantation (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
43. Bariatric surgery is associated with high morbidity and mortality in obese patients with decompensated cirrhosis and can be individualized before, during and after liver transplantation (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – weak)
44. Of the various bariatric surgeries, LSG is the preferred surgery in obese patients with cirrhosis (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

NUTRITION IN CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

Poor nutrition is observed in up to 80% of children with CLD.^{293,294} Infants and those with severe cholestatic liver disease are at particularly high risk of malnutrition.

Growth failure is an important predictor of survival in children with CLD and therefore has been incorporated in the paediatric end-stage liver disease (PELD) scores. Nutritional assessment in children with CLD should include physical assessment for signs of nutrient deficiency, anthropometry and biochemical tests including serum micronutrient levels.

Anthropometry in children

Malnutrition in children with CLD may be under recognized, as routine parameters as weight-for-age, height-for-age, and weight-for-height percentiles frequently overestimate nutritional status. In contrast to adults, malnutrition is often manifest as growth failure and negative impact on neurodevelopment. Weight measurement alone may be misleading and is affected by fluid retention, ascites and organomegaly. Weight in infants needs to be measured without diapers to the nearest 10 g. Older children should be measured to the nearest 100gm while wearing little or no outer clothing and no shoes.²⁹⁵ Height/length and weight for age can be checked on the Indian Association of Paediatrics (IAP) growth charts.²⁹⁶ Growth failure is manifested as < 3rd percentile (z scores < -2) for height/length, weight and weight for height (50th percentile is z score of 0). The interpretation of linear growth is improved by an adjustment based on the mid-parental height. Height/length of younger children (<2 years) responds better to nutritional intervention compared with older children.²⁹⁷ Pubertal status needs to be assessed for determining growth velocity in older children and

Table 3 Daily requirement of nutrients in Children with Chronic liver disease.

Constituent	Daily requirement in CLD	Deficiency manifestation
Calories	130–150% of RDA*	Growth failure
Protein	2–4 g/kg	Lower MUAC**, oedema, ascites
Vitamin A	1000 IU/kg/d up to 25,000 IU orally of water- soluble preparation <10-kg start with 5000 IU/d >10-kg start with 10,000 IU/d	Bitot's spots, night blindness, dryness of eyes, corneal ulcers
Vitamin D	<40 kg: 120–200 IU/kg >40 kg: depending on S. 25OH vit D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <10 ng/ml: 5000 IU/d • 11–19 ng/ml: 4000 IU/d • 20–29 ng/ml: 3000 IU/d <p>If no response to oral therapy/vitamin D-dependent rickets: 10,000 IU/kg IM (max 6 lakh IU) once in 3 m depending on the levels</p>	Enamel hypoplasia; hypotonia; rachitic rosary; delayed closure of fontanelles; parietal and frontal bossing; widening of wrist and bowing of distal radius and ulna; lateral bowing of femur and tibia
Vitamin E	TPGS*** 15–25 IU per kg/d α -Tocopherol (acetate): 10–200 IU/kg/d	Delayed deep tendon reflexes; progressive ataxia; peripheral neuropathy; visual field defects; dementia
Vitamin K	2.5–5 mg/day; 2–7 times weekly orally or 1–10 mg IV	Bleeding diathesis
Iron	6 mg/kg/day	Anaemia
Calcium	25–100 mg elemental calcium/kg/day in divided doses	Bone pains, tooth decay
Zinc	1 mg/kg/day of elemental zinc	Acral dermatitis, altered taste, diarrhoea, fatigue, hair loss
Selenium	1–2 mcg/kg/day	Fatigue, hair loss

Modified from Young S et al²⁹⁷.

RDA*: Recommended daily allowance, MUAC:** Mid-upper arm circumference; TPGS*** D-alpha tocopheryl PEG-1000 succinate.

Vitamin E deficiency needs to be corrected prior to iron supplementation as it improves response; calcium citrate preferred if patient is on proton pump inhibitors.

adolescents. This is based on growth of pubic hair in both sexes, breast development in girls and genital development in boys.²⁹⁸

Nutritional status is better assessed with triceps skin fold thickness (TSFT) and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). These are compared with age- and height-matched normal values and are used to estimate body fat and muscle bulk, respectively. In children between 6 months and 5 years, an MUAC value less than 12.5–30 cm, respectively (z score < -2) suggests moderate to severe malnutrition²⁹⁹ and estimates the risk of death.³⁰⁰ Upper limb measurements are less affected by oedema compared with lower limb measurements. TSFT is a better indicator of acute malnutrition and wasting compared with height and weight.³⁰¹

Body composition analysis has also been studied in children.³⁰² Sarcopenia, which has emerged as an important determinant in adults, has not been well studied in children. A recent Brazilian study of 85 children with CLD assessed weight, height, muscle strength (assessed by manual grip strength) and muscle mass (estimated through dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry). Sarcopenia was diagnosed based on the simultaneous presence of muscle mass and muscle strength deficits, defined as the values below the mean for muscle mass and strength of the studied population, according to gender. Forty percent of children were found to be sarcopenic.³⁰³ There are several nutrition screening tools for assessing malnutrition in adult patients with cirrhosis, which have been studied and compared, but these have not been validated in children. Physical examination and serum levels of vitamins and trace elements further help diagnose specific nutritional deficiencies.³⁰⁴

Nutritional requirements in children with chronic liver disease

Many children with CLD have cholestatic liver disease especially infants, with biliary atresia being the commonest. Children awaiting transplant need specific nutritional intervention as a part of preoperative preparation as they have a significantly higher incidence of infections and surgical complications.³⁰⁵ The energy, macronutrient and micronutrient requirements in children with CLD are depicted in Table 3.^{293,304} High calorie intake 120–

150 kcal/kg/day (up to 150 times the RDA for age) comprising carbohydrate 15–20 g/kg/day, protein 2–4 g/kg/day and fat 8 g/kg/day, which includes 30–50% from MCTs should ideally be provided.

The highest risk for hypoglycaemia is in infants because of smaller glycogen stores. Older children are able to use fat and protein as fuel sources. Therefore, infants who are kept starving, need to have frequent monitoring of BG and will require intravenous dextrose infusion if required to fast or nil per oral for durations longer than 4 h.³⁰⁶ Protein restriction is not warranted in most cases of CLD, except in cases of refractory encephalopathy, and even in these cases, protein restriction to <2 g/kg/d should be avoided as this will lead to endogenous muscle protein consumption. In children, there are limited data showing that BCAA supplementation may exert favourable effects on weight, fat mass, fat-free mass and serum albumin level.³⁰⁷ In a small RCT of 19 children comparing BCAA supplemented versus standard feeds, weight gain was seen with the BCAA feeds and not on the standard formula feed.³⁰⁸ In the setting of cholestasis, deficiency of fat-soluble vitamins (FSVs) (A, D, E and K) and essential fatty acids and is common since micelle formation (which needs bile) is important for absorption of these nutrients.³⁰⁹ In a small but significant study of 23 patients, FSV deficiency was prevalent in majority of patients with serum bilirubin >3 mg/dl and more than half of those with serum bilirubin <3 mg/dl.^{309,310} The deficiency and toxic limits of FSV are mentioned in Table 3.³⁰⁹ It has been recommended that FSV levels need to be regularly monitored as excess supplementation may lead to toxicity, especially vitamins A and D.^{304,309} This is challenging in countries like India due to lack of easy availability of these assays and cost. Ideally, FSVs need to be given in a water-soluble oral form to be absorbable in the setting of cholestasis. Availability of a water-soluble oral formulation of FSV mixture as in the West would make compliance better. Vitamin D deficiency in children manifests differently compared with adults. X rays reveal widening of the epiphyseal plate, cupping, splaying, formation of cortical spurs, and stippling of growth plate.²⁹³ In India, vitamin E is mostly available as alpha tocopherol, which is not water soluble. Tocotrienol may have better water solubility than tocoferol. The preferred form of vitamin E in the presence of cholestasis

Table 4 Fat-soluble Vitamin deficiency and toxic levels^a.

	Measured levels	Deficiency limit	Toxicity limit
Vitamin A	Plasma retinol (mmol/L)	<1	>3
Vitamin D	25OH vitamin D (ng/ml)	<14	>80
Vitamin E	Alpha tocoferol (mmol/L)	<23	>80
Vitamin K	INR	>1.3	–

^aFrom Yu-Mei Shen et al³⁰²

is D-alpha tocopheryl PEG-1000 succinate (TPGS; tocopherolsol).³¹¹ TPGS forms its own micelles at low concentrations and hence might not require the presence of bile acids. This form of vitamin E also improves vitamin D absorption. Vitamin K deficiency usually manifests as a bleeding diathesis typically epistaxis, bleeding from gums and easy bruising. Breast-fed infants with cholestatic liver disease are particularly deficient in vitamin D and vitamin K and can present with catastrophic bleeds at any site including life-threatening intracranial bleeds, and this may be the first manifestation of their liver disease.³¹² Oral absorption is poor and therefore the parenteral route (IM/IV) is preferred. Prothrombin time is used to assess vitamin K deficiency but identifies <50% patients with vitamin K deficiency, which is best identified by PIVKA II (protein induced in vitamin K absence).³¹³ PFIC and Alagille patients with partial biliary diversion may be at an increased risk of developing FSV deficiency despite improvement in their cholestasis due to loss of a large amount of bile through the stoma. All fat-soluble vitamin supplements are best administered in the morning (when bile flow may be maximal), with a meal and in the absence of bile acid binding drugs (cholestyramine) or pro-oxidants (such as iron sulfate). FSV deficiency and toxic levels are shown in Table 4.

MCTs are more water soluble and are readily absorbed by enterocytes in the absence of micelles and are therefore the preferred source of fat. However, long-chain triglycerides (LCTs)/long-chain poly unsaturated fatty acids are needed to provide essential fatty acids (i.e. linoleic, linolenic acids), which assist in absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. These include soyabean oil, fish oil egg yolk, Canola and sunflower oil and are important for neurodevelopment in children. LCTs also improve palatability compared with MCTs. Considering this, about 30–50% of fat requirement should come from MCT.³¹⁴

Water-soluble vitamins-B complex and vitamin C have limited storage in the body and need to be supplemented in children with CLD.²⁹³ Calcium and magnesium deficiency usually arise secondary to reduced vitamin D stimulated intestinal absorption of these trace elements. Iron deficiency is seen in a third of children with CLD.³¹⁵ Zinc deficiency can also arise from malabsorption. Copper and manganese increase in patients with CLD as primarily excreted in bile excretion is reduced in cholestatic children.³¹⁶ Water-soluble vitamins are given in the RDA doses³¹⁷, and trace element nutritional requirements in children with CLD are mentioned in Table 3.

Feeding in children with chronic liver disease

Breast milk is dilute with a caloric density of 0.67 kcal/ml. A vegetarian mother would increase the risk of vitamin B12 deficiency in the child. In exclusively breast-fed children, breast milk can be expressed, fortified and re-fed. In older

kids, MCT oil may be added to the oral diet. Nasogastric feeds through a soft fine bore tube should be considered when oral intake is inadequate. Bolus feeds to top up oral intake with continuous feed through a feeding pump at night may be considered. Nocturnal feeds have been shown to improve anthropometric indices in cholestatic children.³¹⁸ If day time bolus feeds are not tolerated, continuous feeds during the day can be started. Increasing the concentration of the formula increases the osmolality and may cause diarrhoea.

In children with ascites, salt needs to be restricted. In infants and smaller children not more than 1 gm of salt (NaCl) and in older children and adolescents 2–3gm of salt or 1–2 mEq/kg/d is permissible.³¹⁹ Fluid restriction is advised only in the presence of dilutional hyponatremia.

While malnutrition is the burning issue in children with CLD in most countries, the West also experiences obesity as a nutritional problem and may soon become an issue in India. Less than 15% of children who are transplanted are obese (BMI z-scores >3).³²⁰ These children had increased late (>12 years) mortality and were more likely to experience post-transplant obesity.

Consensus statements

45. Nutritional assessment in a child with CLD should include a growth chart with height and weight for age; TSFT and mid-arm circumference measurement (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
46. Children with CLD need up to 150% of RDA of calories and 2–4 g/kg/day of proteins/day (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
47. In children with cholestatic CLD, fat-soluble vitamin deficiency is almost universal and supplementation is needed. MCT-containing formulas should be included to provide up to 50% of fat requirements. (Level of evidence – high; grade of recommendation – strong)
48. Naso-gastric tube feeding including continuous nocturnal feeds are warranted in malnourished children with reduced oral intake and awaiting transplantation. (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Dietary advice for metabolic disorders causing liver disease in paediatric patients

Inborn errors of metabolism (IEMs) are disorders with an enzyme deficiency in a metabolic pathway. When the IEM is associated with hepatomegaly or abnormal liver function, it is labelled as metabolic liver diseases (MLD). The presentation of MLD is variable and encompasses the entire spectrum of clinical liver disease.^{321,322}

The MLD in which dietary therapy has an important role in the treatment including galactosemia, hereditary

fructose intolerance (HFI), glycogen storage disorders (GSDs), tyrosinemia, Wilson's disease (WD), fatty acid oxidation and carnitine metabolism defects, urea cycle defects (UCDs) and citrin deficiency.

General measures

In MLD, the enzyme deficiency results in accumulation of certain substrates that may be toxic and deficiency of some products which are essential. The dietary manipulations needed for management increase the risk of micronutrient/vitamin deficiencies requiring monitoring and supplementation. With age and growth, the dietary requirements change necessitating continuous involvement of a trained metabolic dietician. Careful monitoring of diet, clinical status (including growth and development) and biochemical evidence of both disease control (levels of both toxic and deficient substances) and specific nutrient deficiencies is essential.³²³ The age-based dietary requirements and nutrient composition of various food items are essential for planning the diet.³²⁴

Consensus statement

49. Dietary therapy is an important aspect of management of various MLD. Involvement of a trained dietician is essential. Regular monitoring of diet, clinical status and metabolites for adequacy of disease control, along with identification of changing dietary needs with growth, infection and illness is needed (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Galactosemia

Galactose is a monosaccharide derived from the hydrolysis of lactose, by the lactase enzyme, in the brush border membranes of the enterocytes. Galactose thereafter is transported across enterocyte through the sodium-dependent glucose-galactose transporter.³²⁵ Three enzymes involved in the metabolic pathway by which galactose is converted to glucose include galactokinase (GALK), galactose-1-phosphate uridyl transferase (GALT) and uridine diphosphate (UDP) galactose-4-epimerase (GALE). GALT deficiency results in classical galactosemia and presents with vomiting, hypoglycaemia, cataract, progressive liver disease with ascites, haemolysis and infections. In some cases with GALE deficiency the clinical features are similar to the classical disease.³²⁶

Classical galactosemia

Presence of non-glucose-reducing sugar in urine in a patient with suggestive clinical feature supports the diagnosis but confirmation requires estimation of RBC GALT activity.

Lifelong dietary restriction of galactose is the treatment for classic galactosemia. Soy formula and elemental formula are used for infants as a replacement of the lactose containing milk formulas or breast milk. But soy formulas

are not recommended for premature infants and in them, elemental formulas are preferred.³²⁷ There has been a debate on whether mature cheese should be allowed in subjects with galactosemia and studies have found most of them to be safe.³²⁸ The galactose content of pulses, fruits, vegetables, offal meats and cereals is lower than the dairy-based food.³²⁹ Also the galactose present in these food items is in a complex form which is not digestible.³²⁷ Berry et al.³³⁰ challenged galactosemia patients with additional dietary galactose in the form of fruits and vegetables for three weeks and did not find any significant change in erythrocyte galactose-1-phosphate concentrations and/or urinary galactitol excretion. In addition, it has been recognised that a substantial amount of endogenous production of galactose occurs in the body.³³¹ Keeping the above facts in mind, the current recommendations allow intake of all fruits, vegetables, legumes, unfermented soy products, mature cheese and foods containing caseinates.³²⁷ There are no data on the exact amount of galactose that these patients may take normally at different ages. Complementary feeding is started at appropriate age with non-dairy products.

Parents must be taught the importance of reading the nutrition labels and ingredient list as many non-dairy packaged foods do contain lactose and galactose. After starting the dietary galactose restriction, the high RBC Gal-1-P (GALT) concentrations start showing a reduction which is useful for monitoring. Treatment with a galactose-free diet results in improvement of symptoms and recovery of liver function with normal growth.

As there are no controlled trials in this condition, the management varies from centre to centre. Keeping this in mind a group of experts, that is, members of The Galactosemia Network (GalNet) have developed an evidence-based and internationally applicable guideline for galactosemia.³³² Patients with generalised epimerase deficiency require dietary galactose restriction similar to classic galactosemia.³³³

Consensus statements

50. Galactose-restricted diet (milk and milk product-free diet) should be started with a suspicion of classical galactosemia. Breast feeding and regular milk-based infant formulas need to be stopped (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
51. Soy formulas and elemental formulas are allowed (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
52. Galactosemia patients need a life-long galactose-restricted diet, that is, no dairy products (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
53. Galactose from non-milk sources, that is, fruits, vegetables, legumes, unfermented soy-based products, mature cheeses (with galactose content <25 mg/100 g), are allowed in the diet without any

restrictions (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)

54. There are no data for age-specific recommendation of the amount of galactose allowed in the diet of a patient (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
55. Calcium and vitamin D should be supplemented in diet as per the age-based RDA. Annual assessment for intake along with measurement of blood levels of calcium and vitamin D should be done to assess adequacy of therapy (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
56. During infancy, complimentary feeding can be started at the recommended age (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
57. Regular follow-up with clinician and dietician is required to assess growth, development and dietary compliance. RBC Gal-1-P levels can be measured at diagnosis, and in follow-up at 3 months, 9 months and then yearly to assess dietary compliance (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong).

Hereditary fructose intolerance

HFI is an autosomal-recessive disorder, characterized by deficiency of aldolase B enzyme. The fructose is first phosphorylated into fructose 1-phosphate by the enzyme fructokinase. This fructose 1-phosphate is then broken down by the aldolase B (fructose 1,6-bisphosphate aldolase) enzyme into triose sugars (dihydroxy acetone phosphate and glyceraldehyde).³³⁴

In patients with HFI, ingestion of large amounts of fructose leads to accumulation of fructose 1-phosphate, which causes reduction in intracellular ATP concentration and hypophosphatemia due to depletion of inorganic phosphate. Hypoglycemia occurs due to inhibition of both gluconeogenesis and glycogenolysis by the accumulated fructose 1 phosphate.³³⁵

Infants become symptomatic on first exposure to fructose in honey or sucrose (simple sugar). Continued exposure to fructose leads to vomiting, hepatomegaly, jaundice, hypoglycaemia, renal Fanconi syndrome, poor feeding, growth failure and eventually liver failure.³³⁶ Dietary removal of fructose leads to resolution of symptoms, improvement in liver functions and restoration of normal growth and development.³³⁷ Adults with HFI develop aversion to sweet foods.

Removal of all fructose, sucrose and sorbitol from the diet is the therapy for HFI. All fruits, fruit juices, honey, sorghum, palm or coconut sugar, maple syrup, etc. are to be avoided. A detailed list of foods to be avoided and those which can be consumed is available.³³⁵ Special precaution should be taken before consuming medications in syrup form as many of them contain sucrose and sorbitol.³³⁸ Similarly, many nutritional drinks also have fructose,

and it is essential to check the labels for ingredients. Fructose-containing intravenous fluids need to be avoided. If required, glucose powder can be used as a sweetener. Although some people believe that the dietary restrictions may be relaxed after 2 years of age³³⁹, but there are no recommendations about age-based fructose intake in HFI patients.

Patients with HFI are at risk of micronutrient and water-soluble vitamin deficiencies due to the dietary restrictions and need supplementation (sugar-free multivitamins).³³⁹

Consensus statement

58. Dietary therapy is the main stay of treatment of HFI. Fructose, sucrose and sorbitol must be completely removed from the diet of a patient with suspected HFI (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
59. Dietary elimination leads to recovery of symptoms, normalization of liver functions and normal growth (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

Glycogen storage disease

In the human body, glucose is stored in the form of glycogen with liver and muscle being the main storage organs. The hepatic glycogen is used to release glucose during fasting and to prevent hypoglycaemia. Various IEM characterized by abnormal storage or utilization of glycogen are grouped together as GSDs and classified based on the specific enzyme deficiency and tissues affected.³⁴⁰ GSD type I, III, VI and IX are described as the hepatic GSD. Enlarged liver and hypoglycaemia are the hallmark features of hepatic GSD. Muscle involvement presents as muscle weakness, exercise intolerance and cardiomyopathy. Various long-term complications can occur, which highlight the need of proper treatment with good metabolic control and regular follow-up.³⁴¹

GSD1: There are two types of GSD1 -

- (i) Ia -deficiency of glucose-6-phosphatase (G6Pase- α), more common ~80% cases
- (ii) Ib-deficiency of glucose-6-phosphate transporter (G6PT), less common ~20% cases and they have neutropenia, impaired neutrophil function and Crohn's like colitis in addition.³⁴²

In GSD1, glucose can neither be released from the liver glycogen nor produced by gluconeogenesis or glycogenolysis; hence, hypoglycaemia is most marked in GSD1 in comparison with other hepatic GSD.

Nutritional therapy is the backbone of treatment of GSD1. The nutritional requirements change with age, growth and periods of illness. Regular BG monitoring to detect asymptomatic hypoglycaemia is essential and target

is to keep the BG at >70 mg/dl and avoid rapid glucose fluxes. Monitoring of BG helps in improving the metabolic control, growth and development.³⁴³ Small frequent feeds that are high in complex carbohydrates and evenly distributed both during day and night are the best.

Most experts recommend that 60–70% of calories should come from carbohydrates, 10–15% from proteins and the remaining from fat (<30% for children older than 2 years).

Due to deficiency of the G6Pase enzyme, both fructose and galactose cannot be used in GSD1 and so lactose, which has galactose, sucrose and fructose, needs to be restricted. Given the dietary restrictions, a soy infant formula may be a good choice in infants. This restrictive diet can lead to micronutrient and vitamin deficiencies including calcium and vitamin D.

Infants: – As hypoglycaemia may be associated with seizures, brain damage and even death, all efforts are targeted at avoiding this complication. The options for feeding every 3–4 h during both day and night include waking up the child and oral feeds or using nasogastric tube/gastrostomy for overnight drip feed. In our experience, parent education and understanding is vital for achieving this. Complementary feed is started similar to other infants except that fruits, juices, sucrose and dairy products need restriction.

Young child: Uncooked corn-starch (CS) is used for prevention of hypoglycemia as it is digested slowly and releases glucose over a longer period of time. As amylase is required for its digestion and infants (up to 2 years of age) have deficiency of amylase, they may not be able to tolerate CS in full doses. CS may be introduced from 6 months to 1 year of age but in small amounts in the beginning and then increased as per tolerance. Excess gas, bloating and even loose stools may occur after intake of CS, but these symptoms usually subside with continued use.³⁴⁴

Dose of CS is kept around 1.6 g/kg body weight every 3–4 h in young children and 1.7–2.5 g/kg every 4–6 h for older children and adolescents. Some adolescents/adults may need only a single bed-time dose (1.7–2.5 g/kg) of CS to have a BG of >70 mg/dl and lactate of <2 mmol/l throughout night.³⁴⁵ Detailed age-wise guidelines for feeding and CS and metabolic control are given in the 2002 European guidelines.³⁴⁶ Parents are instructed about recognition and treatment of hypoglycaemia. Presence of lethargy, nausea, irritability, sweating or light headedness may suggest hypoglycaemia. If these are present, sugar should be checked immediately. Both symptomatic/asymptomatic BG of <60 mg/dl needs to be treated. First glucose powder in water is given and then the regular food or CS should be given quickly.

Consensus statements

60. Regular BG monitoring before feeds is recommended. BG levels should be kept at ≥ 70 mg/dl to obtain good

metabolic control (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

61. The amount of sucrose, fructose and galactose in diet should be restricted (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
62. All dietary recommendations target two things: (1) prevention of hypoglycaemia and other metabolic complications and (2) adequate growth. Even over-treatment is harmful as it can cause insulin resistance. Multivitamins, calcium and vitamin D supplementation is required (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
63. In infants and children, feeding should be done at 3–4 h intervals, even during night. Either oral, nasogastric or Gastrostomy tube can be used. Raw, uncooked CS may be introduced between 6 and 12 months of age (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
64. In adolescents and adults: Avoid fasting for more than 5–6 h. Use uncooked CS and/or frequent feeds. Small, frequent meals (calories – 60–70% carbohydrates, 10–15% protein, <30% fat) should be prescribed (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

GSD III

The diet in GSD III is planned according to the age at diagnosis, severity of manifestations, especially hypoglycaemia and type of GSD III (IIIa or IIIb). Type IIIa has myopathy/cardiomyopathy while IIIb does not. In infants and young children with GSD IIIa and IIIb, the aim is to give frequent feeds, avoid fasting and prevent hypoglycaemia similar to GSDI. The exact distribution of calories from carbohydrate, protein and fat in infants is still controversial. A high protein diet helps GSD type III cases by three ways:³⁴⁷

- 1) As gluconeogenesis is not affected, the alanine from protein can be used as an alternate source for glucose in periods of fasting.
- 2) High dietary protein enhances muscle protein synthesis and thus improves muscle function.
- 3) Avoiding excess carbohydrate intake and replacing some of it with protein may help in reducing unnecessary glycogen storage.

Thus the child with GSD IIIa should be given a high protein diet.^{348,349} Few small studies have shown that myopathy and cardiomyopathy improves after increasing dietary protein intake in GSD IIIa patients.^{350,351} Although in type IIIb, the benefit of high protein is less compared with type IIIa, but it is still beneficial by mechanism 1 and 3 above. As gluconeogenesis is normal in GSD III, no dietary restriction of sucrose, fructose and lactose are needed. As dietary restrictions in GSD III are less severe than in type I, vitamin and micronutrient deficiencies are less common but still they need periodic assessment.

Recommendations suggest that around 20%–30% calories come from protein, 35%–55% from carbohydrates, and 20%–35% from fat in children/adolescents.

The amount of CS needs to be adjusted as per the response. Mostly 1 g/kg body weight CS every 4 h is sufficient for maintenance of BG. However, some patients have severe hypoglycaemia similar to GSD I and they need CS in doses similar to that in type I. CS may be mixed in water or cold milk or yogurt.

Addition of extra protein to the CS, like whey protein supplement, may be helpful in maintaining the BG.^{352,353} The best time to check BG is before meals, before CS and first thing in the morning. Guidance regarding healthy eating habits and importance of exercise especially in patients with GSD IIIa cannot be over emphasized.

There is no specific recommendation for adults with GSD IIIa and IIIb. The risk of hypoglycaemia is less but exists, and they should consume a regular well-balanced diet with adequate proteins and avoid fasting. The practice guidelines from the American College of Medical Genetics offers detailed information about management of GSD III.³⁴⁷ While adjusting the dietary recommendations in follow-up, age-based RDA, severity of hypoglycemic episodes and laboratory findings (ALT, AST, creatine kinase, triglyceride, lactate, ketones) need to be considered.³⁵⁴

Consensus statement

65. Small, frequent feeds containing complex carbohydrates and protein both in day and night with less of simple sugars. Fasting should not be done (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
66. If child has hypoglycaemia then corn starch to be started at 6–12 months of age (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
67. In adolescents and adults, a diet with high protein (25% of total calories) is important for GSD IIIa, that is, with muscle involvement (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
68. Fructose, sucrose and lactose need not be restricted in GSD III (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

GSD VI and IX

GSD types VI and IX primarily affect the liver and are usually milder than GSD I. The enzyme glycogen phosphorylase is deficient in GSD VI while GSD XI is due to deficiency of phosphorylase kinase. There is variability in the clinical manifestations of GSD VI and IX and differentiation between them or other hepatic GSD often requires genetic/enzymatic analysis. Patients with minimal metabolic abnormality need a normal diet while those with hypoglycaemia, raised transaminases and poor growth need frequent feeds with avoidance of fasting.^{355–357} Diet containing around 2–3 g protein/kg body weight is

advised. Similar to GSD III, lactose, sucrose and fructose are not prohibited, but the amount of simple sugars should not be excessive. About 30% of calories should come from fat including poly and monounsaturated fats.

Vitamin and mineral supplements are similar to that in type III GSD. Children can maintain BG with a dose of 1 g/kg/body weight of CS for longer periods of 4–8 h and dose of CS is adjusted as per response. The overnight dose of CS is decided based on the midnight and early morning sugar levels. Adults usually have lesser requirement of CS than children. The goal is to maintain BG between 70 and 100 mg/dl, and blood ketones between 0.0 and 0.2 mmol/L.³⁵⁸

Consensus statement

69. Diet should be adjusted to provide, ~45–50% of total calories from carbohydrates, ~20–25% from proteins and ~30% from fats (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
70. All meals and snacks should have complex carbohydrates and proteins including the bedtime meal (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
71. CS ~1 g/kg body weight may be required at bedtime to prevent hypoglycemia in the night time. Some patients may need more frequent CS to maintain euglycemia (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
72. No restriction of dairy products or fruits is required but these should be consumed in moderation just like simple sugars to avoid problems of excessive glycogen accumulation and rapid changes in BG (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

Tyrosinemia

Tyrosinemia type 1 (hepatorenal tyrosinemia HT-1) is an autosomal recessive condition, which occurs due to the deficiency of the enzyme fumaryl acetoacetate hydrolase that breaks down the fumaryl acetoacetate (FAA) into fumarate and acetoacetate. Blockage at this step leads to increase in FAA and succinylacetone (SA), which are responsible for the hepatic, renal and neurological manifestations of HT1.³⁵⁹ Diagnosis is established by demonstrating high blood/urine levels of succinyl acetone.³⁶⁰ The management of HT1 rests on two main pillars—use of nitisinone(2-[2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl]-1,3-cyclohexanedione, NTBC) to reduce the formation of toxic metabolites and a special diet to maintain the tyrosine/phenylalanine (PA) levels in the recommended range while sustaining normal growth and development. Treatment with NTBC leads to increase in plasma tyrosine level and its associated complications.³⁶¹ Dietary restriction of PA and tyrosine, even if started in infancy, does not stop

the renal and hepatic complications of HT1, that is, dietary therapy alone does not work for HT1. Weight gain in childhood, infections and dietary lapses often result in big fluctuations in the tyrosine levels and so regular and lifelong adherence to the diet is needed to prevent complications (keratitis, impaired cognitive development) of high tyrosine levels.³⁶²

Nutritional intake should meet the age-appropriate calorie and nutrient requirements as per RDA. Nearly three-fourth of dietary PA is converted to tyrosine and so it is important to restrict both PA and tyrosine in the diet.³⁶³ This is possible by restricting the normal dietary protein and replacing it with special protein supplements free of tyrosine and PA. The total required protein intake is calculated based on the RDA with 'some' extra amount as the proteins from medicinal foods have a slightly lower absorption.³⁶⁴ The two types of food, normal diet and special food together should supply the required energy, carbohydrate, fat, proteins and also vitamins and other micronutrients. It is suggested that young infants should be given a diet with ~120 kcal/kg/day and 3.5 g/kg/day of protein from special formulas. Normal infant formula or breast milk is adjusted to provide 185–550 mg/day of PA and 95–275 mg/day of tyrosine. Excellent review of age-based protein from normal diet and special food, tyrosine and PA content of food items are available for planning the diet.³⁶⁵ In general, carbohydrate rich and low-protein vegetarian food are allowed in the diet while monitoring and targeting a tyrosine concentration of 200–600 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (normal: 35–90 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) and PA concentration of 20–80 $\mu\text{mol/L}$.^{366,367} Experts feel that additional protein from milk or other items should be added if the blood PA levels fall to <20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$.³⁶⁶ Some clinicians suggest using PA supplements to correct these low levels.³⁶⁷ Dietary management of HT1 is very complicated and requires a team of trained dieticians and clinicians with experience.

Consensus statement

73. Dietary therapy and medication (NTBC) should be started as soon as diagnosis is made (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
74. Dietary protein intake should be restricted, and protein should be replaced by tyrosine and PA-free special formula/supplements with a target to maintain plasma tyrosine concentration of 200–600 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
75. The intake of PA should also be adjusted to maintain plasma PA concentrations within the normal range (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
76. Age appropriate supplement of vitamins and minerals should be given to maintain normal growth in patients with HT1 (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)

Wilson's disease

WD is an autosomal recessive disorder, which affects the ATP7B gene on chromosome 13. There is a defect in biliary excretion of copper, which leads to abnormal copper accumulation and liver damage.^{368,369} Chelators are efficacious in reducing the copper overload, and there are no data to show that addition of dietary copper restriction improves the outcome in comparison with chelator therapy alone^{2,368} and recent paediatric guidelines recommend that patients should avoid intake of food and water with high concentration of copper especially in the first year of therapy while on treatment with chelators.^{368,370,371} This is based on the assumption that the body should not be overloaded with extra dietary copper in the beginning of the chelation therapy.

Intestinal copper absorption is normal in patients with WD. Intestinal copper absorption is dependent on the dietary copper content, proportion of absorbed dietary copper varies from 12% at high intake to 56% at very low intake.³⁷² The normal daily adequate intake of copper as per the European dietary reference value recommendation is 1.3 mg/day in women and 1.6 mg/day in men.³⁷³ The food items with very high copper content (>1 mg copper per 100 gm of food, range 1.3–4.4 mg) include liver, shell fish (oyster/lobster), nuts and cocoa powder (chocolates).³⁷⁴ It has been suggested that occasional intake (once/week) of small amounts of liver and shellfish may be permitted once the patient has been adequately treated, that is, after the first year of therapy.³⁷⁵ Excessive restriction of dietary copper is disadvantageous as it reduces the protein intake to less than the RDA in CLD patients especially vegetarians.³⁶⁹ Drinking water should contain <0.1 mg copper per litre of water. Copper or brass pipes used for water supply may be a source of increased copper intake as copper content of water may range from 0.005 to 30 mg/L.³⁷⁵ It is recommended to discard the first 1–2 L of water from the copper pipes as stagnant water in copper pipes is likely to have higher copper than flowing water. Studies in another copper overload disease (Indian childhood cirrhosis) have shown that boiling and storing (>6 h) milk or water in copper/brass vessels increases the copper content of the milk and water.³⁷⁶ Patients with WD should preferably be asked to use aluminium/steel or glass utensils. Patient and their family should be counselled that the main focus of therapy is chelators and not diet.

Consensus statement

77. Copper-rich food should be restricted in the diet of patients with WD, especially in the first year until clinical remission while on therapy with chelating agents (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak).

78. Intake of water with high copper content should be avoided especially in the first year of treatment (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak).

Fatty acid oxidation disorders

FAODs are a group of disorders affecting beta-oxidation of fatty acids. During fasting, beta-oxidation of fatty acids in the mitochondria provides ketone bodies and high-energy phosphates that act as major fuels for various tissues. Fatty acids enter the mitochondria through the carnitine shuttle (except medium-chain fatty acids) and thereafter undergo beta-oxidation through several steps catalyzed by different enzymes. FAODs can have defects in the carnitine shuttle or in beta-oxidation proper.³⁷⁷ Defects in beta-oxidation enzymes are classified based on the chain length of the fatty acid substrate; thus, it can affect very-long-chain-, long-chain or medium-chain fatty acid metabolism. Manifestations of FAODs are because of energy depletion and accumulation of toxic intermediaries.

The cornerstone of dietary management of FAODs is feeding at regular intervals and avoid prolonged fasting so that there is no hypoglycemia that can trigger oxidation of fatty acids. Feeding with glucose polymers or CS (oral or by nasogastric route) or intravenous glucose are required only during periods of stress or severe illness.^{377,378} The details of management of different subtypes are covered elsewhere.^{379–381}

Consensus statement

79. The maximum periods of fasting during wellness are as follows: neonates – 3 h, < 6 months – 4 h, > 6 months – 4 h in day time and 6 h at night, > 1 year–4 h in day time and 10 h at night (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
80. Supplementation with glucose polymers or cornstarch is needed during periods of stress. Intravenous 10% glucose should be given during severe illnesses. Nasogastric feeding with glucose polymers (maltodextrin) can be given when oral intake is poor (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
81. Subjects with very-long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (VLCAD) and long-chain 3-hydroxy-acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase (LCHAD) deficiency need supplementation with MCT and restriction of LCTs. Essential fatty acids should be supplemented in these cases (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)
82. MCT supplements should not be given in medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)
83. Subjects on restriction of LCT, may develop deficiencies of fat-soluble vitamins, which needs supplementation (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)

84. The role of carnitine supplementation (100 mg/kg/day) is unequivocal only in carnitine transport defect (OCTN2 defect). In all other disorders, carnitine supplementation is controversial (Level of evidence – moderate; grade of recommendation – strong)

Urea cycle defects

Urea cycle is an important metabolic cycle, which enables excretion of nitrogen waste products, generated due to protein catabolism. The most common presentation with complete enzyme defect is HA that may lead to coma and death and occurs in neonatal period. Partial defects in enzymes result in HA, developmental disabilities, coma and even death and may manifest an any age.^{382,383}

Nutritional management of urea cycle defects

The nutritional management can be classified into that of acute episode (acute HA) and long-term management.

Acute hyperammonemic Acrisis

All protein intake should be stopped, and energy should be provided with glucose (10%) and if needed intravenous lipids (after exclusion of FAODs). This should be done even on clinical suspicion, while the diagnostic work-up is being done. If the patient can take orally, glucose polymer-based high energy, protein-free diet is initiated.^{384,385} Enteral feeding/breast feeding should be reintroduced as soon as possible. Protein intake should not be restricted beyond 24–48 h to avoid catabolic state.³⁸³ It is started in small amounts and increased to required daily needs with ammonia monitoring. If the patient cannot take orally, formulations containing essential amino acids (EAAs) should be given through nasogastric tube or intravenously. Energy intake is kept at 120% of daily requirement. If the ammonia increases (>100 $\mu\text{mol/L}$), special EAA mixtures (for UCD) can be used alone or in combination with dietary proteins. Details of protein and energy needs during various ages have been defined by FAO/WHO/UNU report 2007.^{383,386}

Long-term nutritional management of urea cycle defects

This is based on a diet of low protein, with adequate EAA and supplementation of vitamins and minerals.

The diet in UCD should be low in protein (~1.7 g/kg infants to 0.8 g/kg in older child and adults per day) but still adequate to sustain normal growth while having BA in the range of <80 $\mu\text{mol/L}$.^{383–386} Some patients, who can tolerate only minimal protein intake, need EAA supplementation with regular meals (3–4 times/day) to provide for 20–30% of protein intake as EAA.³⁸⁷ EAA formulations should be rich in BCAA but not in tryptophan, phenylalanine and tyrosine. Carbohydrate and fats should be given at libitum to provide adequate energy and avoid catabolism. Feeds should be evenly spaced throughout

the day, avoiding prolonged periods of fasting. The protein and energy intake should be titrated as per needs of the patient, that is, age, any catabolic state, special situations like pregnancy and lactation etc. Female patients with mild Ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency do not need protein restriction, except during decompensation, pregnancy and lactation. In patients with arginase deficiency, severe protein restriction is needed and EAA should form up to 50% of protein requirement. Vitamin and mineral should be supplemented in diet as patients are at risk of deficiency of Fe, Zn, Cu, Ca and cobalamin.³⁸⁴

Practical aspects of low-protein diet: Infants should be managed with either breast feeding or standard infant formula.^{388,389} If needed, protein intake may be restricted by use of special protein-free formula along with breast feeding. Weaning may be achieved with initial introduction of protein-free fruits and vegetables and then a gradual introduction of dietary proteins replacing gram by gram from breast/formula feed to protein containing foods. Regular adjustments in diet are needed during childhood and adolescence to adjust for increased needs and appetite during puberty. The last meal of the day should provide approximately 25% of daily energy and natural protein to reduce risk of catabolism during overnight fasting.

Consensus statement

85. During an episode of HA, immediate treatment without waiting for diagnostic workup should be initiated in form of intravenous glucose and stopping of protein intake. Enteral feeding is the preferred route and should be initiated as soon as possible. Proteins or EAA should be reintroduced when the ammonia levels fall below 100 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, usually within 24–48 h (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
86. Long-term management of UCD is centred on nutritional management in form of low-protein diet with EAA and mineral supplementation. A dietician, expert in nutritional management of metabolic disorders is required for regular monitoring and fine-tuning of nutritional management, especially for various individual disorders (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)
87. During different stages of development from infancy to adulthood and special situations like pregnancy and lactation, individualized dietary planning should be done (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – strong)

Citrin deficiency

Citrin is a liver-specific mitochondrial aspartate/glutamate (ASG) carrier, and its deficiency results in an IEM with varied presentation.³⁹⁰ In neonates it presents as intrahepatic cholestasis (NICCD), in older children it causes failure to thrive and dyslipidemia (FTTDCD) and in adults it pre-

sents with episodic hyperammonaemia with neuropsychiatric symptoms (citrullinemia type 2, CTLN2).³⁹¹ These patients often have a strong preference for protein- and/or lipid-rich food with aversion for carbohydrates.

Citrin transports aspartate from mitochondria to cytosol and also plays a role in the transport of NADH reducing equivalent from cytosol to mitochondria as a component of malate-aspartate shuttle. The pathophysiology is explained by limitation of transport of ASG from cytosol to mitochondria and reduction of aspartate formation from citric acid cycle in mitochondria. This results in decreased oxaloacetate and aspartate and further blockage of ureagenesis.

Nutritional management: depends on the type of presentation.

NICCD: lactose-free and MCT-rich formula is given along with supplementation of fat-soluble vitamins.

FTTDCD and CTLN 2: protein-rich, carbohydrate-limited natural diet is advised.

Arginine administration helps in reducing the blood ammonia.³⁹² Beans and peanuts are rich in aspartate/asparagine along with arginine. Sodium pyruvate and MCT oil supplementation is beneficial.³⁹¹ High-carbohydrate diets and alcohol should not be given as they result in high NADH/NAD⁺ ratio due to non-utilization of NADH in citric acid cycle in mitochondria.

Consensus statement

88. In patients with citrin deficiency (NICCD, FTTDCD and CTLN 2), normal-high-protein diet with adequate fat should be prescribed. Carbohydrates should be restricted and alcohol should be avoided (CTLN 2). Supplementation with fat-soluble vitamins and MCT may be beneficial especially for NICCD and FTTDCD (Level of evidence – low; grade of recommendation – weak)

CONCLUSIONS

Assessing and treating malnutrition is an essential component of treating patients with CLD. Nutritional assessment and management can be improved by close cooperation between attending interns, medical residents, physicians, hepatologists, house staff and dietitians. Reuter et al.³⁹³ assessed the nutritional status in inpatients with cirrhosis using RFH-NPT and showed there was improvement in nutritional consultations after educational training regarding nutritional guidelines of the stakeholders and was associated with lower readmissions.

Additional studies are required to determine the nutrition screen of choice in cirrhosis. Ideally, these studies should compare screens with an accepted nutritional assessment tool (i.e. dietitian assessment), evaluate the validity of screens both in inpatients and outpatients and compare several screens in a single study. Future studies

can evaluate whether adding simple measures of muscle mass and/or function (currently done as part of a nutritional assessment) may increase the effectiveness of existing nutrition screens without sacrificing efficiency. Additionally, screens may themselves have independent prognostic utility for the prediction of complications such as hospitalization and mortality and this can be evaluated in further studies.

The appendices with this document include nutritional values of common Indian foods and sample dietary advice for cirrhotics. However, there is enormous complexity of socio-cultural practices throughout India and South Asia, and while the tables can only serve as rough guides, protein, fat and carbohydrate intake need to be individualized for patients from different countries or parts of the country.

CREDIT AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have none to declare.

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APPENDIX 1: NUTRITIONAL VALUES OF COMMON INDIAN FOODS

Food composition tables are data repository for the content of nutritionally relevant chemical constituents and energy values of foods. The first Indian Food Composition Tables was brought out in the year 1937, since then National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has been constantly updating the compositional database of Indian foods. The Indian Food Composition Tables (IFCT) 2017¹ is the major source of food composition data in India, generated, developed, managed and maintained by the National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR), Hyderabad.

Foods with common characteristics have been placed together and arranged in groups (Table 1). All foods have been categorized into 20 food groups, and the number in Table 1 indicates the total number of foods present in each group. A total of 528 foods have been analysed for more than 150 parameters and presented under different nutrient component parameters. None of the food sampled for analysis is fortified, and it represents only inherent values.

Table 2 is a compilation of commonly eaten foods with the portion size and approximate nutrient content. Table 3 gives the sodium content of foods/100 gm of edible portion.

Table 1 Food groups in the Indian Food Composition Table.

Code	Food groups	No. of food entries
A	Cereals and millets	24
B	Grain legumes	25
C	Green leafy vegetables	34
D	Other vegetables	78
E	Fruits	68
F	Roots and tubers	19
G	Condiments and spices	33
H	Nuts and oil seeds	21
I	Sugars	2
J	Mushrooms	4
K	Miscellaneous foods	2
L	Milk and milk products	4
M	Egg and egg products	15
N	Poultry	19
O	Animal meat	63
P	Marine fish	92
Q	Marine shellfish	8
R	Marine mollusks	7
S	Fresh water fish and shellfish	10
T	Edible oils and fats	9

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Table 2 Portion size of commonly eaten food (edible portion) and approximate nutrient content.

Food items	Raw weight (g)	Portion size (cooked)	Energy (kcal)	Proteins (g)	Carbohydrates (g)	Fats (g)	Foods included
Cereals and millets	25	1 chapati (6" diameter)	85	2.5	17	0.5	Barley, cornflakes, maize, oats, rice, rice flakes, vermicelli, semolina, wheat
Bread, white	20	1 slice	50	1.5	10	0	Bread-standard size
Pulses and legumes	25	1 bowl (volume 210 ml, height 4.5 cm, diameter 8 cm)	80	7	13	0.5	All dehusked pulses
Whole gram	25	1 bowl (same as pulses)	75	5	12	0	All whole pulses with husk
Milk (whole, cow)	100 ml	½ cup (200 ml, height 7 cm, diameter 7 cm)	75	3	5	4	Milk
Curd (cow's milk)	100	½ cup (200 ml, height 7 cm, diameter 7 cm)	60	3	3	4	Curd
Fresh paneer	25	1"x1"x1/2"	65	4.75	3	3.75	Fresh paneer
Roots and tubers	100	1 bowl (volume 155 ml, height 3.8 cm, diameter 7.5 cm)	50	1	10	0	Potato, onion, sweet potato, colocasia, carrot, radish
Green leafy vegetables	100	1 bowl (volume 155 ml, height 3.8 cm, diameter 7.5 cm)	30	2	3	1.0	Spinach, Fenugreek leaves, Bathua, mustard leaves, mint, radish leaves, cabbage
Other vegetables	100	1 bowl (volume 155 ml, height 3.8 cm, diameter 7.5 cm)	30	2	5	0	Beans, brinjal, capsicum, tomato cauliflower, cucumber, gourd,
Fruits	100	1 medium size	50	0.7	13	0	Apple, grapes, guava, litchi, papaya, watermelon
Banana	100	1 large	105	1.23	23.63	0.33	Banana
Fats and Oils	5	1 tea spoon	45	–	–	5.0	All refined oils, ghee
Nuts	15	Almonds – 12; cashew – 6; walnut – 5;	85	3	2	7	Nuts
Sugars	5	1 tea spoon	20	–	5	–	Sugar, jaggery, jams
Egg, poultry	50	1 no.	75	7	–	5.27	Egg
Meat, chicken, fish	50	Palm size	75	10	–	4	Non-vegetarian foods

Nutrient values have been rounded to the nearest number.

Values less than 0.5 have been considered as 0.

Adapted from References^{1,2,3,4}.

Table 3 Sodium content of foods/100 gm (edible portion).^a

	<5 mg Na	5–35 mg Na	35–140 mg Na	High >140 mg Na
Cereals	Chapathi, whole wheat flour	Barley		Dosa flour (dry)
	Quinoa			Idli flour (dry)
	Rice flakes (dry)			
	Rice, parboiled milled			
	Rice, raw milled			
	Wheat, flour fiend			
	Wheat, semolina (dry)			

Table 3 (Continued)

	<5 mg Na	5–35 mg Na	35–140 mg Na	High >140 mg Na
	Wheat, vermicelli (dry)			
Millets	Bajra	Jowar		
	Jowar			
	Ragi			
	Samai			
	Varagu			
Pulses	Soyabean, white	Bengal gram dhal		
		Bengal gram whole		
		Black gram dal		
		Black gram whole		
		Cow pea white		
		Green gram dhal		
		Green gram whole		
		Horse gram whole		
		Peas dry		
		Rajmah, red		
		Red gram dhal		
Fruits	Apple, big	Musk melon orange flesh		
	Banana, ripe, poovam	Papaya ripe		
	Custard apple	Tamarind, pulp		
	Dates, processed			
	Gosse berry			
	Grapes, green round			
	Guava, green round seeded			
	Guava, white flesh			
	Jackfruit, ripe			
	Jambu fruit, ripe			
	Mango, ripe, Banganapalli			
	Orange, pulp			
	Pear			
	Pineapple			
	Plum			
	Sapota			
	Strawberry			
	Sweet lime, pulp			
	Watermelon, dark green			
	Green leafy vegetables		Agathi leaves	Fenugreek leaves
		Amaranth leaves, green	Ponnaganni	
		Cabbage, green	Radish leaves	
		Cauliflower leaves	Spinach	
		Drumstick leaves		

(Continued on next page)

Nutrition

Table 3 (Continued)

	<5 mg Na	5–35 mg Na	35–140 mg Na	High >140 mg Na
		Lettuce		
		Mustard leaves		
Roots and tubers	Colocasia	Sweet potato, pink skin	Carrot, orange	
	Potato, brown skin, big	Tapioca	Beetroot	
		Yam, elephant		
Other vegetables	Ash gourd	Bitter gourd, jagged, teeth, ridges, elongate		
	Beans scarlet, tender	Cauliflower		
	Bottle gourd, elongate, pale green	Cucumber, green elongate		
	Brinjal all varieties	Ladies finger		
	Ridge gourd	Plantain flower		
	Zucchini, gourd	Snake gourd, long, pale green		
		Tomato, green		
		Tomato, red ripe		
Milk		Curd		
		Milk, whole, cow		
		Milk, whole, buffalo		
		Paneer		
Meat		Beef, chops	Chicken, poultry, breast skinless	
			Egg, poultry, whole raw	
			Goat, chops	
Marine		Salmon fish	Paarai	Anchovy (Nethili)
		Vanjar (seer fish)	Pomfret, black	Prawns, big
Condiments and spices	Chilies, all varieties of green	Asafoetida	Coriander levels	Cloves
	Onion, small	Cardamom, green	Cumin seed	
		Chilies, red	Fenugreek seed	
		Coriander seed		
		Curry leaves		
		Garlic, big, clove		
		Ginger, fresh		
		Mint leaves		
		Onion, big		
		Pepper, black		
		Poppy seeds		
		Turmeric powder		
Nuts	Almond	Cashew		
	Mustard	Coconut, kernel, fresh		
	Walnut	Groundnut		
		Pistachio nut		
Sugars	Sugar	Jaggery		

Table 3 (Continued)

	<5 mg Na	5–35 mg Na	35–140 mg Na	High >140 mg Na
Processed products	Act II popcorn (golden sizzle)	Kissan jam	Kissan orange squash	777 mango pickle
	Bindu appalam	Mount dew	Ovaltine	Amul butter
	Kellogg's cornflakes	Pepsi	Real-pomegranate	Britannia cheese cube s
	Quaker oats	Tang Orange instant drink mix		Diary milk
		Tropicana Orange		Haldiram bhujia
				Kissan ketchup
				Maggie noodles
				Knorr mix vegetable soup

Note: In labelled food products, care needs to be taken for conversion of common salt (sodium chloride) to sodium.

^aAdapted from ref. ³.

- Sodium chloride contains 40% (39.3%) sodium and 60% chloride.
- To convert sodium chloride to its sodium, multiply by 0.393.
- To convert mg of sodium to mEq, divide by the atomic weight of 23.
- To convert sodium to salt, multiply by 2.54.
 - Millimoles and milliequivalents of sodium are the same.

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE DIETARY ADVICE FOR PATIENTS WITH CIRRHOSIS

(2000 K cal, 75 grams protein, fat – 30%, 2 g sodium).

The various food groups and servings are given in [Table 1](#). Incorporation of protein-rich items in dietary plan are depicted in [Table 2](#).

Points to be kept in mind:

1. Diet for liver disease patients should be simple and balanced one.
2. Meals cooked for the whole family can be eaten, but with less salt.
3. Food is your therapy and treatment. Eat it regularly like medicines. Cook foods with spices and oil. Spices (turmeric, coriander, garam masala and other spices) make the food tasty; include them in your food.
4. Use vinegar, tamarind, lemon, tomato to make the food tasty.
5. The above-mentioned quantity of food should be divided between 7 and 8 meals in a day. Eat something before sleeping (necessarily)
6. Do not drink along with food.
7. Eat fresh fruits and avoid fruit juices.
8. Do not put extra salt on salad, curd, fruits.
9. Eat all pulses and vegetables, with less salt.
10. Eat homemade chutneys and pickles without salt.
11. Eat the food regularly according to the mentioned ideal timings.
12. Keep time gap of 2–3 h between meals.
13. Do not drinks lot of water along with food.

Table 1 Food groups and servings.

Food groups	Food items	Quantity
1) Milk (light in protein)	Milk, curd, lassi, buttermilk, paneer (cottage cheese), milk leaved sweet dishes, ice cream, mustard, kheer, tea, coffee etc.	1000 ml (4 big glasses of milk)
2) Cereals	Wheat, rice, jowar, bajra, maize, dalia (broken wheat), poha (rice flakes), pulses, semolina	150 g (6–7 chapatis)
3) Pulses (light in protein)	Pulses, roasted Bengal grain, rajma, germinated/sprouted pulses, sattu, soyabean, cheela, besan laddu, dhokla, peanuts, boiled channa, rajma etc.	75 g (3 katori cooked)
4) Vegetables	Potato Potato, seasonal and green vegetables	100 g 300 g (2 katori)
5) Fruits	All seasonal fruits	200 g (2 medium)
6) Meat-fish (light in protein)	Fish and chicken	50 g
7) Oil and ghee	Any oil (mustard, refined, olive, soyabean, groundnut), white butter, ghee	30 ml (5–6 tsp)
8) Sugar	Jaggery, honey, chikki, gajak, sweets	25 gm (5 tsp)
9) Salt	Only in cooked pulses and vegetables	1/2 tsp (2.5 g)
10) Egg		1

Table 2 Incorporating protein rich foods in the dietary plan^a.

8 a.m	No. 1/3/6/10 + breakfast
10 a.m	Egg/1 glass thick lassi/roasted Bengal gram (channa)/dry fruits/peanuts
1 p.m	1 katori dal/pulse + 1 katori curd + lunch
5 p.m	Roasted Bengal gram (channa)/peanuts/dhokla/any besan dish + tea etc.
8 p.m	1 katori dal + dinner
10 p.m	1 glass milk/no. 1/3/6/10

^aserial numbers in table from food groups in [Table 1](#).

14. Tamarind and lemon can be used in the food.
 15. Boiling, steaming, roasting, etc. are better forms of cooking food. Avoid use excessive fat or frying of the food.
- Foods to be avoided:
1. Salted food items: salted chips, kurkure, pickle, chutney, papad, sauce, churan etc.

2. Bread, biscuits, Chinese food, sea food (fish, prawn etc), baking soda etc.
3. Beverages: Carbonated soft drinks, packed juice etc.
4. Excessive fried foods.

Lifestyle modifications:

1. Do not consume alcohol, tobacco, cigarette etc.
2. Continue with your job/business/study etc.
3. Weakness of muscles is normal in this disease. So, exercise should be necessarily done – ½ h in the morning and 1/2 h in the evening. It will strengthen your muscles.

- Sodium chloride contains 40% (39.3%) sodium and 60% chloride.
- To convert sodium chloride to its sodium, multiply by 0.393.
- To convert mg of sodium to mEq, divide by the atomic weight of 23.
- To convert sodium to salt, multiply by 2.54.
- Millimoles and milliequivalents of sodium are the same.