

Focus on: Cirrhosis

October is Liver Awareness Month

QUICK FACTS

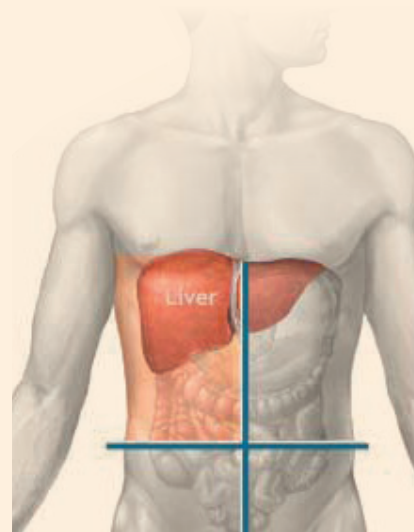
- Cirrhosis is characterized by a progressive, diffuse, fibrotic, nodular condition that affects the liver.¹
- The two most common causes of cirrhosis in the United States are alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis C.
- In 2002, cirrhosis and chronic liver failure were the 12th most common causes of death in the United States.¹
- 40% of patients with cirrhosis are asymptomatic and the disease is frequently found incidentally or during autopsy.¹
- Heavy alcohol consumption and chronic hepatitis C are the most common causes of cirrhosis.²
- Cirrhosis is the most common reason for needing a liver transplant.³

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS¹

- Abdominal wall vascular collaterals
- Ascites
- Asterixis
- Clubbing and hypertrophic osteoarthropathy
- Dupuytren's contracture
- Sweet, pungent breath odor (fetor hepaticus)
- Gynecomastia
- Hepatomegaly
- Jaundice
- Kayser-Fleischer ring (Wilson's disease)
- Nail changes
- Palmar erythema
- Scleral icterus
- Vascular spiders
- Splenomegaly
- Testicular atrophy

COMMON PRESENTING SYMPTOMS¹

- Loss of appetite and weight
- Weakness and/or fatigue
- Jaundice
- Itching
- Bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract
- Clotting disorders
- Change in mental status
- Increased abdominal size



CODING HIGHLIGHTS⁴

Document and code cirrhosis to the highest level of specificity.

Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis:

571.2 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver

TIP: For a patient admitted for bleeding esophageal varices due to alcoholic liver cirrhosis, sequence the liver cirrhosis first.

571.3 Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified

Chronic hepatitis:

571.40 Chronic hepatitis, unspecified

571.41 Chronic persistent hepatitis

571.42 Autoimmune hepatitis

571.49 Other (chronic hepatitis, active or aggressive; recurrent hepatitis)

571.5 Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol

Note: When coding 571.5 (cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol), always code first, if applicable, viral hepatitis (acute) (chronic) (070.0-070.9).

Transplant:

V42.7 Liver transplant status

¹ Heidelbaugh, J, et al. "Cirrhosis and Chronic Liver Failure: Part I. Diagnosis and Evaluation." *Am Family Physician* 2006;74:756-762.

² "Cirrhosis." *National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse*. Dec. 2008. Web. 28 Sept. 2010. <<http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/cirrhosis/>>.

³ "What I Need to Know about Liver Transplantation." *National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse*. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, June 2010. Web. 01 Oct. 2010. <http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/livertransplant_ez/#4>.

⁴ *Ingenix ICD-9-CM for Physicians*. Vol. 1 & 2. Eden Prairie: Ingenix, 2011. Print.