

## Acute Kidney Injury in Patients

## with Cirrhosis

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Common condition in patients with cirrhosis

>Up to 50% of hospitalized patients with cirrhosis

>58% of such patients in ICU

Introduction

Associated with high morbidity and mortality and an increased incidence of CKD after liver transplantation

#### Causes of AKI

Renal hypoperfusion (most cases:hypovolemia — 50%)
A unique cause of AKI due to renal hypoperfusion in patients with cirrhosis is the HRS, which is the result of renal vasoconstriction (15-20%)

≻Intrinsic structural kidney injury (ATN → 30%)

➢Postrenal injury due to urinary obstruction (1%)







Increase in serum creatinine  $\geq 0.3 \text{ mg/dl}$  within 48 hr

Increase  $\geq 1.5$  times baseline level, which is known or presumed to have occurred within previous 7 days

Urinary output <0.5 ml/kg/hr in 6 h



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#### Hepatorenal syndrome (HRS)



# Hepatorenal syndrome (HRS)



Absolute increase in serum creatinine  $\geq 0.3$  mg/dl within 48 hr

Increase in serum creatinine >1.5 times baseline level

Urinary output <0.5 ml/kg/hr for 6 hr

✓ Type 2 (HRS-2): HRS-CKD: eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m2 for  $\ge$ 3 mo in the absence of other(structural) causes

HRS-AKD: eGFR<60 ml/min/1.73 m2 for <3 mo in the absence of other(structural) causes or <50% increase in serum creatinine with last outpatient value within previous 3 mo as baseline level</p>



Table 1. Definitions of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) and the Hepatorenal Syndrome (HRS) in Patients with Cirrhosis.*						
Variable or Definition	International Ascites Club, Salerno et al. <sup>7</sup> (2007)	Acute Disease Quality Initiative, Nadim et al. <sup>8</sup> (2012)	International Club of Ascites, Angeli et al. <sup>9</sup> (2015)	Angeli et al. <sup>10</sup> (2019)		
Baseline serum creatinine l evel			Serum creatinine measured in previous 3 mo; in patients with >1 value with- in previous 3 mo, the value dosest to time of hospital admission should be used; in patients without a previ- ous serum creatinine value, the value on admission should be used as baseline	Similar to 2015 definition <sup>9</sup>		
AKI		Increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/ dl within 48 hr or increase ≥1.5 times baseline level	Increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/dl within 48 hr or increase ≥1.5 times baseline level, which is known or presumed to have occurred within previous 7 days	Absolute increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/dl within 48 hr or≥1.5 times baseline level or urinary output <0.5 ml/kg/hr in 6 hr		



AKI stage		Stage 1: increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/dl or ≥1.5–2 times baseline level Stage 2: increase in serum creatinine >2–3 times baseline level Stage 3: increase in serum creatinine >3 times baseline level or ≥4.0 mg/ dl with an acute increase ≥0.5 mg/ dl or initiation of renal-replacement therapy	Similar to 2012 definition <sup>8</sup>	Similar to 2012 definition <sup>8</sup>
HRS	Cirrhosis with ascites Serum creatinine >1.5 mg/dl with no improvement (decrease ≤1.5 mg/ dl) after at least 2 days of diuretic withdrawal and volume expansion with albumin (1 g/kg/day, maximum of 100 g/day) Absence of shock No current or recent treatment with nephrotoxic drugs Absence of parenchymal kidney disease as indicated by proteinuria >500 mg/ day, microhematuria >50 red cells/ high-power field, or abnormal renal findings on ultrasonography	Similar to 2007 definition <sup>7</sup>	Similar to 2007 definition, <sup>7</sup> except for removal of serum creatinine >1.5 mg/dl and indusion of AKI diagnosis according to KDIGO se- rum creatinine criteria (i.e., increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/dl with- in 48 hr or ≥1.5 times baseline level)	Similar to 2015 definition, <sup>9</sup> except for addition of urinary output <0.5 ml/kg/hr for ≥6 hr as a criterion for AKI; suggestion of HRS-AKI with FeNa of<0.2% (FeNA <0.1% highly predictive)

HRS type 1	Rapid, progressive renal failure, defined by doubling of initial serum creati- nine (to a level >2.5 mg/dl) in <2 wk	A specific form of AKI	_	HRS-AKI: absolute increase in serum creatinine ≥0.3 mg/dl within 48 hr or increase in serum creatinine >1.5 times baseline level; or urinary output <0.5 ml/kg/ hr for 6 hr
HRS type 2	Serum creatinine increased from 1.5 to 2.5 mg/dl, with steady or slowly pro- gressive course; typically associated with refractory ascites	A specific form of CKD		<ul> <li>HRS-CKD: eGFR &lt;60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> for ≥3 mo in the absence of other (structural) causes</li> <li>HRS-AKD: eGFR &lt;60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> for &lt;3 mo in the absence of other (structural) causes or &lt;50% increase in serum creatinine with last out- patient value within previous 3 mo as baseline level</li> </ul>





# Pathophysiology

Portal hypertension; increased intrahepatic resistance due to distortion of the liver architecture (fibrosis and nodules), increase in intrahepatic vascular tone

>Activation of vasodilators in the splanchnic circulation (Nitric Oxide) leads to progressive splanchnic and systemic vasodilatation







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Renal blood flow  $\implies$  decrease in the (GFR) and a prerenal type of kidney injury that does not respond to volume expansion that is, HRS-AKI

Renal vasoconstriction in patients with cirrhosis is not countered by the release of vasodilatory substances (PGs) because of a decrease in their production and local release of vasoconstrictors such as endothelin





## Assessment of Kidney Function

eGFR equations based on:

Serum creatinine

Cystatin C



#### Determining kidney function in the general population of persons with stable serum Cr levels





## Assessment of Kidney Function

- Overestimates the GFR in patients with cirrhosis:
  - ✓ Decreased creatinine production due to liver disease
  - ✓ Protein calorie malnutrition
  - ✓ Muscle wasting
- In patients with AKI and fluid overload, an increase in the serum creatinine level can lag by several hours to days, despite a decrease in the GFR



## Assessment of Kidney Function...



□ eGFR equations tend to overestimate the true GFR by 10 to 20 ml/min/1.73 m2 of BSA, especially in patients with a GFR of less than 40, Ascites, or both

The accuracy of eGFR measurements is particularly important in patients with cirrhosis because eGFR is one of the factors used to determine candidacy for simultaneous liver and kidney transplantation



## Diagnostic Workup and Management of AKI





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#### Diagnostic Workup and Management of AKI

>Urinary tests are important in differentiating between HRS-AKI and various causes of AKI

that are due to intrinsic or parenchymal kidney injury



#### Diagnostic Workup and Management of AKI

> A urinary neutrophil gelatinase–associated lipocalin (NGAL) level greater than 220 to 244  $\mu$ g/gr of creatinine is suggestive of (ATN)

➢ Volume overload is suggested by the presence of anasarca, jugular venous distention, a chest film showing pulmonary congestion, or an elevated right ventricular systolic pressure in echo

>Diuretics may need to be initiated or continued if there is evidence of volume overload





#### Treatment of HRS-AKI

>Pharmacologic Therapy

>Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt

>Renal-Replacement Therapy

Liver Transplantation









## Pharmacologic Therapy



>Albumin infusion should be decreased, and cautious use of Terlipressin in patients with volume overload

- > Terlipressin should be withheld if (SpO2) is less than 90%
- Terlipressin side effects include myocardial infarction, peripheral or mesenteric ischemia, and pulmonary edema





## Pharmacologic Therapy

Norepinephrine use is limited to the ICU and requires placement of a central catheter

- It may be considered as an alternative if Terlipressin is contraindicated or unavailable
- Side effects of Norepinephrine include ischemic events and cardiac dysrhythmias









## Pharmacologic Therapy



The combination of Midodrine (7.5 to 15 mg orally three times a day) and Octreotide (100 to 200  $\mu$ g subcutaneously three times a day), given over a period of 24 to 48 hours, may be considered if Terlipressin is unavailable or contraindicated and a transfer to the ICU for Norepinephrine infusion is not an option

> Midodrine may cause bradyarrhythmias



#### Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt

An important therapeutic option in patients with portal hypertension is the placement of a (TIPS) that may improve kidney function by redistributing blood volume and reducing portal pressure

There is currently insufficient evidence to recommend TIPS for HRS-AKI





## **Renal-Replacement Therapy**

 RRT should be individualized on the basis of lifethreatening indications that are refractory to medical treatment (Hyperkalemia, Acidosis, or fluid overload),
 Uremic complications, the trajectory of kidney function, or the overall prognosis





#### Liver Transplantation

Liver transplantation is the treatment of choice in patients with HRS-AKI Simultaneous liver and kidney transplantation is a potential therapeutic option for patients with prolonged kidney dysfunction before liver transplantation





### Liver Transplantation

>Criteria for simultaneous liver and kidney transplantation included factors:

✓ Prolonged duration of AKI

✓ Dialysis

✓ Presence of CKD

**Kidney biopsy** may assist in diagnosis and determining the reversibility of kidney dysfunction and the need for simultaneous liver and kidney transplantation.





### Liver Transplantation

➢Indications for simultaneous liver kidney transplant (SLK) in patients with cirrhosis and renal dysfunction:

- End Stage Liver Disease and one or more of the following:
  - End Stage Renal Disease requiring hemodialysis
  - Chronic Kidney Disease with GFR <30 mL/min\* for >3 months
  - Kidney biopsy showing >30% glomerulosclerosis & interstitial fibrosis
  - Acute Kidney Injury with creatinine >2.0 mg/dL and/or requiring dialysis for >8 week



#### Prevention of AKI

Cautious use of diuretics(<500 g of weight loss per day)</p>

≻Cautious use of lactulose (2–3 bowel movements/day)

Prevention of variceal hemorrhage

Antibiotic prophylaxis afterGIB and SBP

≻Albumin with LVP and SBP





#### Prevention of AKI...

➢ Intravenous albumin infusions at a dose of 4 to 6 g per liter of ascites removed have been shown to ameliorate circulatory dysfunction and prevent AKI after large volume paracentesis (removal of >5 liters).

➢Albumin infusions have also been shown to reduce the incidence of AKI and to decrease mortality among patients with SBP





#### Prevention of AKI...

- Betalactam
   antibiotics
- PPI

- Radiocontrast dye
- Amphotericin B
- Aminoglycosides
- Vancomycin

- NSAID
- RAAS blocker

Direct nephrotoxic effects by impairing intra renal blood flow









**Medications** 

#### Prevention of AKI...

Kidney function should be closely monitored in patients with

cirrhosis and ascites while they are receiving these medications

➤Cautious use of IV contrast, especially in patients with an eGFR < 45</p>







