



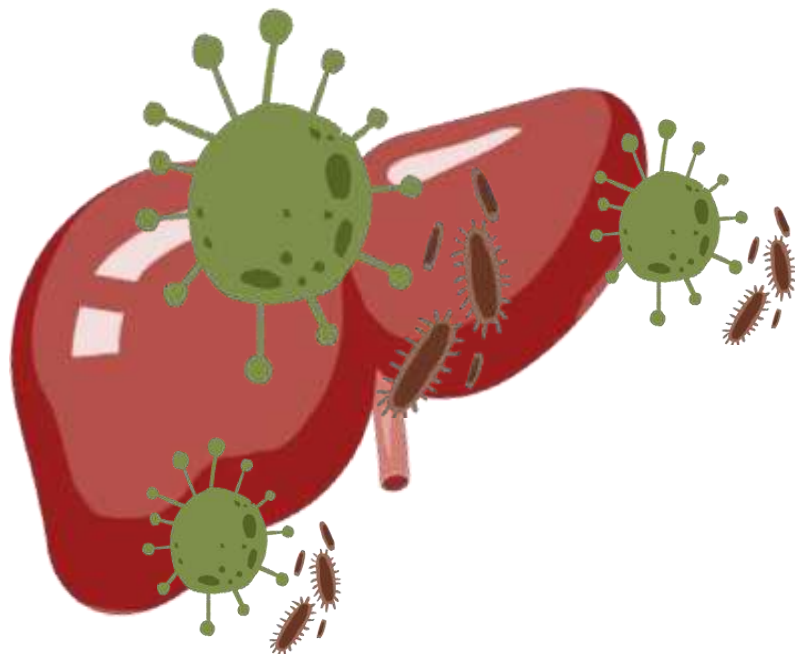
Health education Numbe:GI-109

Set date: 2014.02.25

Review date: 2022.07.25

Revised date:2024.02.03

## Liver Abscess



To deliver intelligent and holistic medicine and to provide the best healthcare  
Compassion Quality Innovation Accountability

All information above has been reviewed by Gastroenterology specialists  
Edited and published by the Department of Nursing,  
Taichung Veterans General Hospital

## A. What is liver abscess?

Liver abscess usually develop after bacterial or parasitic infection. It will lead to liver parenchyma inflammation and necrosis, and then local abscess formation, occurs in the diabetes, potential hepatobiliary or pancreatic disease, liver transplant patients.

## B. Symptoms

The typical liver abscess contains the following symptoms :

(a)Fever : about 90% of patients have this symptom. |

(b)Abdominal pain: about 50-75% of patients have this symptom, usually occurs in the right upper quadrant.

(c)Other symptoms: nausea, vomiting, weight loss, general fatigue, etc.



## C. Diagnosis

(a) Abdominal sonography

(b) Abdominal computed tomography(CT).



## D. Treatment

(a) Antibiotic therapy : when the liver abscess is less than or equal to 5 cm,

treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics for six to eight weeks, initial

intravenous antibiotic therapy, most of patients oral antibiotics for complete

the course of treatment.

- (b) Drainage of liver abscess by drainage tube : when the liver abscess is larger than 5 cm or more abscesses, accompanied by hepatobiliary and pancreatic disease, it is suggest placing a drainage tube to drain the pus.
- (c) If antibiotic therapy or drainage fails, abdominal surgical intervention to clear abscesses.

### **E. Drainage tube nursing care**

- (a) Mild pink color of drainage is common phenomenon when tube is just inserted. If drainage color keeps bloody and total amount increases, please call the medical staff.
- (b) Keep wound clean and dry, and change wound dressing once a day. Dressing should be changed if it was getting wet or displacement to prevent wound infection.
- (c) Use the adhesive tape fix the drainage tube to avoid displacement due to slippy drainage tube. (Figure. 1)



**Figure. 1 Drainage tube fixation**

(d) To keep drainage tube unobstructed, sometimes we must milk the drainage and avoid compression or kink to prevent from obstruction.

(Figure. 2)

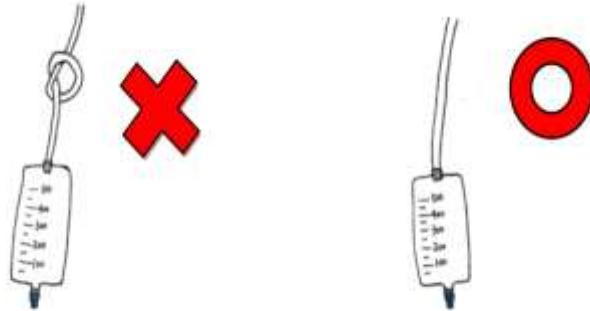


Figure. 2 The drainage tube remains unobstructed

(e) Drainage bag placement : when lying down, sitting, or getting out of bed, the drainage bag should be lowered than wound, and prevent the drainage fluid back or wound infection. (Figure. 3)

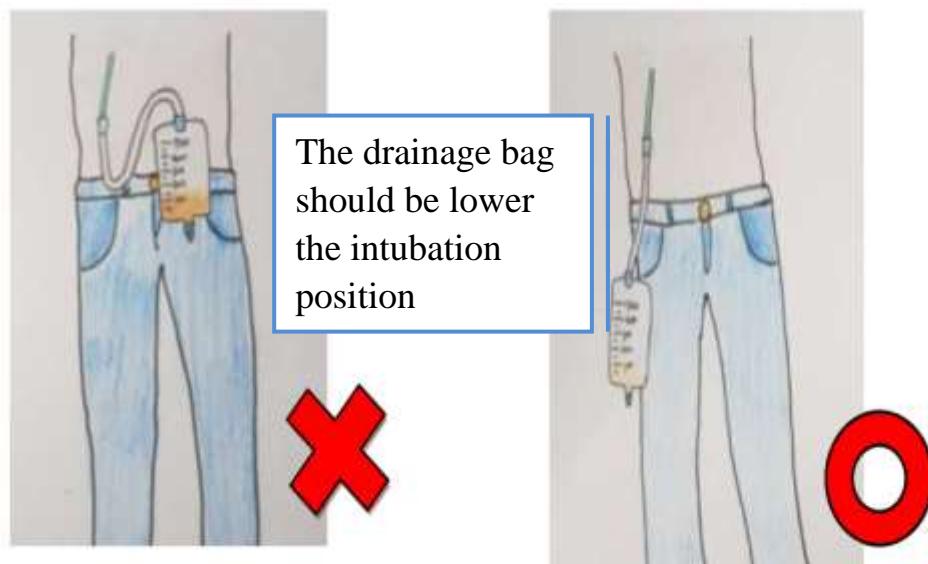


Figure. 3 Drainage bag placement

(f) Don't get your wound wet in the bath or shower.

(g) If you are discharge with drainage tube, you need to record total amount of drainage and return to out-patient-department for follow up.

## **F. Instruction for daily care**

(a) Balanced food can strengthen your immunity, avoid spicy, greasy, spicy and raw foods.



(b) If you have the following conditions, you must

return to out-patient-department or emergency room for examination.

- i. Chills, fever, jaundice.
- ii. Poor appetite, fatigue, severe discomfortable.
- iii. Puncture wound have redness, swelling, warmth, pain, bile leakage and pus secretion over.
- iv. Drainage tube displacement or slippage.

## **G. Conclusion**

When symptoms of liver abscess appearance needs immediate medical attention, and compliance with Physician's order for examination with treatment, if drainage tube is placed, should be accordance with the content of health education, treatment of the disease need you to work with the medical team.

## H. References

戴靖庭、鄒曉婷、吳岱穎、郭冠良、蔡亮如 (2020) · 細菌性肝膿瘍 · 家庭醫學與基層醫療, 35(6), 163-166。 <https://doi.org/10.6965/FMPMC>

Sharma, S., & Ahuja, V. (2021). Liver abscess: Complications and treatment. *Clin Liver Dis (Hoboken)*, 18(3), 122-126. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cld.1128>

## 圖片來源

大腸癌照護網(2020) · 其他檢查-電腦斷層掃描 · 取自 [http://www.crcw.org/Prevent\\_P3\\_e.aspx](http://www.crcw.org/Prevent_P3_e.aspx)

pngtree (2020) · 細菌 · 取自 [https://zh.pngtree.com/freepng/various-cell-bacteria-group-map-png-free-material\\_4425348.html](https://zh.pngtree.com/freepng/various-cell-bacteria-group-map-png-free-material_4425348.html)

pngtree (2020) · 手繪肝臟 · 取自 [https://zh.pngtree.com/freepng/hand-drawn-cartoon-liver-illustration\\_4625579.html](https://zh.pngtree.com/freepng/hand-drawn-cartoon-liver-illustration_4625579.html)

**Let us take the quiz to make sure you understand**

1. Liver abscess is caused by bacteria or parasites entering the liver and causing inflammation and necrosis, resulting in the formation of tissue pus gathering phenomenon.

Yes     No     Don't know

2. Symptoms of liver abscess usually include fever, right abdominal pain, generalized tiredness and weakness.

Yes     No     Don't know

3. After treatment of hepatic abscess, in order to increase resistance, spicy and stimulating raw food diet can be consumed.

Yes     No     Don't know

4. The drainage tube of hepatic abscess ulcer should be kept unobstructed and below the wound, avoiding soaking the wound when bathing, and the color and amount of drainage should be recorded every day.

Yes     No     Don't know

5. If there is redness, swelling, heat and pain, or purulent discharge from the wound after returning home from treatment of hepatic abscess, return to the doctor immediately.

Yes     No     Don't know