

Treatment for Hepatic Conditions

Portal Hypertension Medications			
	Medication	Side Effects	Additional Information
<u>Beta Blockers:</u> Decrease portal pressure by decreasing portal venous flow	Nadolol 20-40 mg daily Propranolol 20 mg BID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bradycardia ▪ Exercise Intolerance ▪ Fatigue ▪ Sexual Dysfunction ▪ Potential to worsen bronchospastic disease 	Titrate to heart rate of 55-60 bpm -OR- Maximum tolerated dose

Ascites Treatment			
	Medication	Mechanism of Action	Additional Information
<u>Ascites:</u> Fluid accumulation within the peritoneal cavity due to portal hypertension	Lasix 40 mg daily	<u>Loop Diuretic:</u> Inhibits reabsorption of sodium and chloride in the ascending loop of Henle and distal renal tubule	Dietary sodium restriction <2 grams per day is recommended
	Spironolactone 100 mg daily	<u>Potassium Sparing Diuretic:</u> Competes with aldosterone for receptor sites in the distal renal tubules, which increases sodium, chloride, and water excretion	

Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis (SBP) Treatment		
	Empiric Therapy (Broad Spectrum Coverage)	Additional Information
<u>Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis:</u> Ascitic fluid infection	Cefotaxime 2 g IV q8 hours **3 rd generation cephalosporins are used most commonly**	Antibiotics should NOT be given until the ascitic fluid has been drawn for culture **Culture sensitivities will tailor the specific antibiotic therapy**

Hepatic Encephalopathy Treatment			
	First Line Medication	Antibiotic Therapy	Additional Information
<u>Hepatic Encephalopathy:</u> Neuropsychiatric abnormalities due to an accumulation of gut-derived nitrogenous substances	<u>Lactulose:</u> 25 mL every 1 to 2 hours until at least 2 loose bowel movements. Titrate to 2 to 3 bowel movements daily	<u>Rifaximin</u> <u>Treatment Dose:</u> 400 mg q 8h x 5-10 days <u>Prevention Dose:</u> 550 mg BID	Probiotics may be used as additional therapy for gut health Zinc is often given as a supplemental therapy at a dose of 220 mg BID
		<u>Metronidazole</u> 250 mg q 6-12 hours **Not for long-term use**	

Hepatitis C Treatment	
Hepatitis C treatment guidelines are constantly changing. Stay up-to-date on therapy guidelines for specific treatment algorithms.	Commonly Used Medications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) ▪ Sofosbuvir + Ledipasvir (Harvoni) ▪ Ribavirin ▪ Peginterferon