

Presentation - Hepatomegaly

Causes of hepatomegaly

- Hepatitis
 - Infections
 - Viral hepatitis (acute and chronic)
 - EBV and CMV
 - Malaria
 - Abscesses – Amoebic or Pyogenic
- Autoimmune hepatitis
- Alcoholic liver disease
- Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (previously known as NASH)
- Tumours
 - Metastases
 - Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
 - Hepatoma
- Haematological Disorders
 - Leukaemia (CML and CLL)
 - Lymphoma
 - Haemolytic anaemias
 - Thalassaemia; red cell defects; sickle cell anaemia
- Infiltration
 - Amyloidosis
 - Sarcoidosis
- Drugs
 - Statins
 - Amiodarone
 - Macrolides
- Metabolic
 - Haemochromatosis
 - Wilson's disease
 - Glycogen storage disorders
 - Porphyria
- Biliary Disease
 - Extra-hepatic obstruction
 - Pancreatic cancer; cholangiocarcinoma
 - Primary Biliary Cirrhosis
 - Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis
- Congestive
 - Right ventricular failure
 - Congestive cardiac failure
 - Constrictive pericarditis
- Budd-Chiari

History in hepatomegaly

- Presenting complaint – very varied and depends on cause
 - Abdominal distension
 - Nausea
 - Pruritus
 - Weight loss
 - Pyrexia

- Pale stool/dark urine
- Change in bowel habit
- Past medical history
 - Autoimmune disease
 - Inflammatory bowel disease
- Medications
 - Statins
 - Amiodarone
 - Antibiotic use
- Family history
 - Malignancy
 - Chronic liver disease
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Autoimmune disease
- Social history
 - Travel history
 - Alcohol consumption
 - Tattoos; blood transfusions; risky sexual behaviour

Examination of hepatomegaly

- Signs of chronic liver disease (see chronic liver disease section)
- Hepatomegaly – smooth/tender/craggy
- Cachexia
- Abdominal scars
- Lymphadenopathy

Initial investigations of hepatomegaly

- Blood tests:
 - Full blood count
 - Urea and electrolytes
 - Liver function tests
 - Clotting
 - Inflammatory markers
 - Blood film
 - Full liver screen (see chronic liver disease section)
- Ultrasound abdomen

Further investigations and management of hepatomegaly

- Depends on cause (see other gastroenterology pages)

Common questions concerning hepatomegaly?

- What are the commonest causes of hepatomegaly in the UK?
 - Alcoholic liver disease
 - Cancer (metastases are the commonest or HCC)
 - Congestive cardiac failure