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ACUTE LIVER FAILURE IN CHILDREN – NEWER CONCEPTS IN MANAGEMENT

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Abstract: With more understanding on liver regeneration, the management of liver failure is aimed towards supporting regeneration rather than replacement. Renal replacement therapy, plasmapheresis and auxiliary liver transplantation are the currently available option in India to support regeneration. Caution should be exercised and supportive regeneration should be attempted only in centre with pediatric liver transplant facility as there is always a chance that these children would require liver transplantation.

Keywords: Acute liver failure, Auxiliary liver transplantation, Plasmapheresis, Hepatocyte transfusion.

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Points to Remember

- Liver transplant has changed the outcome in pediatric acute liver failure.
- Current management of liver failure is aimed towards supporting regeneration (renal replacement therapy, plasmapheresis and auxiliary liver transplantation) rather than replacement.
- Auxiliary liver transplant allows the regeneration of native liver and withdrawal of immunosuppression.

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