



PRIMARY LIVER CANCER

Pathophysiology

The two primary type of liver cancer are Hepatocellular Carcinoma & Cholangiocellular Carcinoma. Hepatocellular Carcinoma develops directly in the liver where as Cholangiocellular Carcinoma develops in the bile duct. The development of primary liver cancer is a multistep process. A rapid production of cells occurs in response to stress induced DNA damage in addition to genetic alterations and failure of tumor suppressing genes, ultimately cultivating in the formation of cancer.

Modifiable Risk Factors	Non-Modifiable Risk Factors
Obesity	Male
Smoking	Diabetes
Alcohol	Hepatitis B, C & D
Consumption of aflatoxin	Cirrhosis of the liver
Exposure to thorium dioxide, vinyl chloride & plutonium	Fatty liver disease
	Hemochromatosis

Manifestations

The signs & symptoms of liver cancer vary from person to person and may have a rapid or slow onset. The signs & symptoms may include:

- General Malaise
- Lack of Appetite
- Weight Loss
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Diarrhea & Constipation
- Abdominal Fullness & Pressure
- A Dull Ache in the Right Upper Quadrant
- Pain Radiating to the Right Shoulder
- Abdominal Lump or Mass
- Jaundice
- Portal Hypertension
- Ascites
- Edema in the Lower Extremities
- Hepatic Encephalopathy
- Increased Testosterone Levels