

CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE AND ITS MANAGEMENT WITH HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE

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ABSTRACT

Liver disease is a condition where the liver gets damaged and its functioning is impaired. The liver, a critical organ in the body, plays a decisive part in detoxification, digestion, breakdown, and immune control. Chronic Liver Disease (CLD) is a hepatic disorder that extends for a long time. It is marked by progressive hepatic inflammation, cirrhosis and fibrosis. Across the world, CLD is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. Liver structure develops peculiar and intervenes with liver blood flow and function and eventually leads to portal hypertension and hepatocytic dysfunction. Homeopathic treatment is regarded as an alternative medical therapy for curing this condition.

KEYWORDS: Liver Disease, Chronic Liver Disease (CLD), Homeopathic Treatment, Hepatic Disorder, Progressive Hepatic Inflammation, Cirrhosis And Fibrosis.

INTRODUCTION

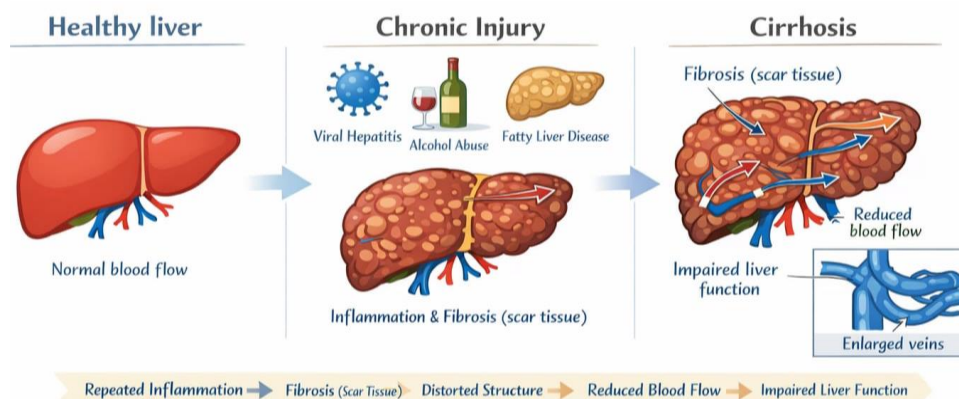
Chronic Liver Disease and Management: Why Homeopathic Medicine Is Preferred?

The liver performs various important functions, such as food processing and transportation of nutrients. Some liver diseases arise due to viruses, such as hepatitis. Too much alcohol consumption or use of drugs can lead to other liver conditions. Liver cirrhosis may be caused by a

scar tissue or a persistent injury in the organ. Some of the top etiological factors for CLD include:

- Metabolic disorders,
- Viral hepatitis,
- Alcohol abuse, and
- Autoimmune diseases

It is possible to categorize liver disease by varying health disorders. All these can lead to end-stage liver disease or liver failure.



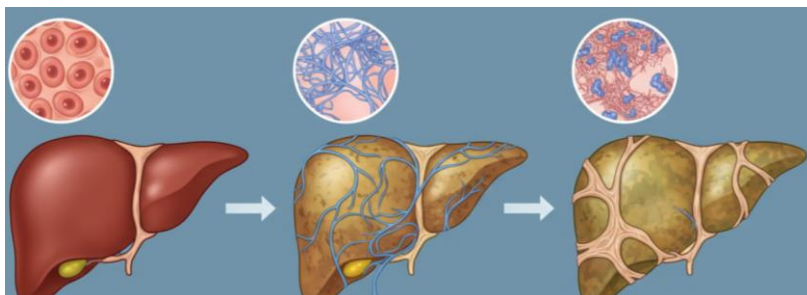
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Liver functioning can be impaired by many disorders, including those arising due to

- Genetics,
- Viruses,
- Autoimmune diseases,
- Alcohol,
- Bad eating habits, and

- Responses to medication, with severity ranging from mild abnormalities to acute chronic conditions

Immunosuppressants, antiviral therapy and liver transplantation (in advanced stages) constitute the conventional medical approach for CLD. However, homeopathy works with a holistic approach and focuses on the overall well-being of patients. It works through individualized prescriptions.



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When homeopathic medicines are used for CLD, these can easily address allergies, autoimmune diseases and viral infections. Patients do not suffer from side effects due to the use of these medicines. Homeopathic substances are used in promotional and preventative healthcare, and are also used for therapeutic purposes.

How Homeopathic Practitioners Treat and Manage Chronic Liver Disease?

Homeopaths start the process with an initial consultation. They evaluate various factors, such as:

- Symptoms reported by patient,
- His or her age,
- Medical history,
- Family history,
- Type of lifestyle,
- Diet, and
- Use of other medications, for some other conditions



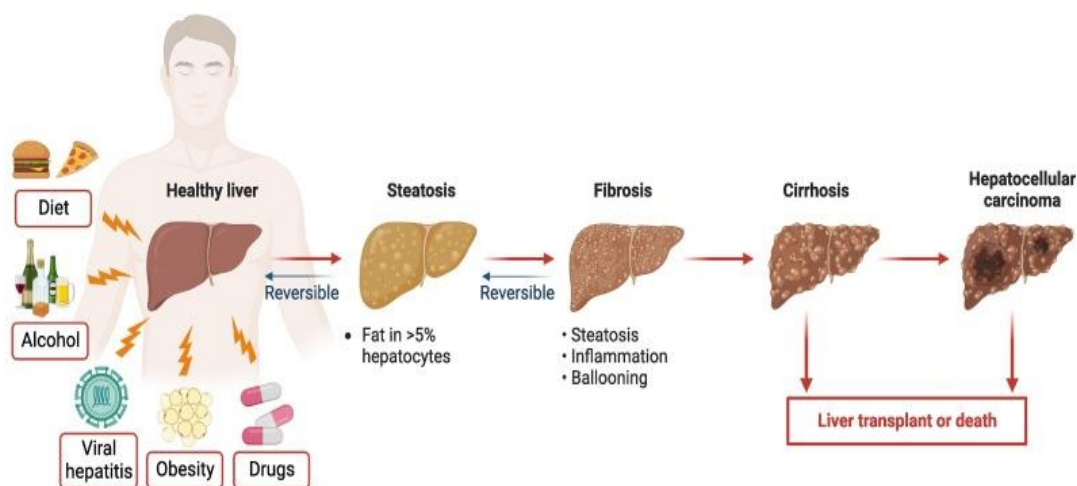
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Practitioners come up with customized treatment plans that can match the needs and symptoms of each patient individually.

They also understand the nutritional requirements of patients as well as their susceptibility to CLD. Homeopaths can make changes to the lifestyle, recommending an easy-to-follow routine. They recommend medications and dietary modifications whenever necessary.

Homoeopathic Management of Chronic Liver Disease

CLD can lead to various complications, which depend on the underlying cause. If liver disease is untreated and becomes chronic, it may lead to end-stage liver disease or even liver failure. Patients may also develop liver cancer, due to a condition known as Primary Liver Cancer or because of metastasis from other organs, a condition that is referred to as Secondary Liver Cancer.



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Liver cancer may arise any time, based on the type that patients suffer from. However, those who suffer from liver cirrhosis are more susceptible towards contracting liver cancer. Once cancerous cells spread into the liver, it is impossible to treat or reverse them successfully. A liver transplant can be the last measure to save a patient.

According to the homeopathic principle, a disease mainly occurs due to the vulnerability of an individual to it, as well as viruses, germs and other exogenous agents. When it comes to treating or managing CLD, homeopaths use the same principle. They use various methods to manage the condition, including:

General Measures

Homeopaths strictly recommend patients to avoid hepatotoxic agents and the consumption of alcohol. The harmful effects of these substances on the liver are well-known. Naturally, homeopaths try to make sure that there is no further stress on liver health in sufferers.

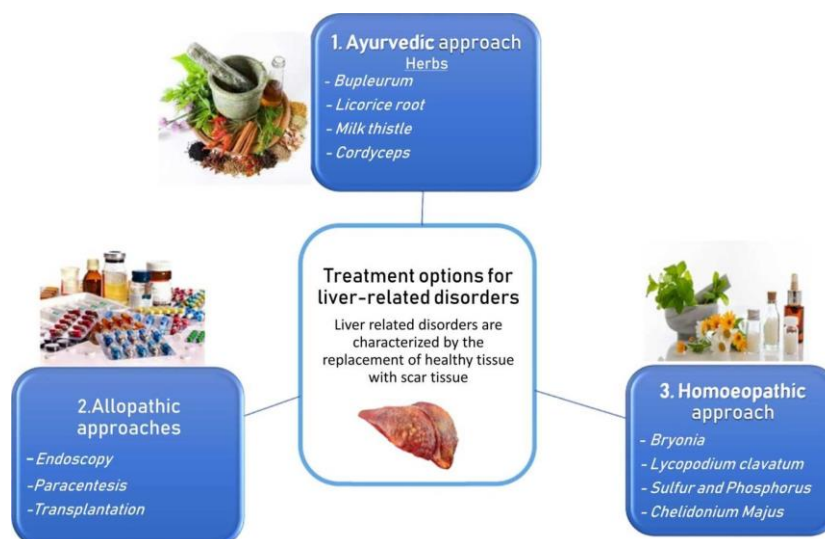
They also advise patients to follow a balanced diet. The diet should comprise of enough vitamins and protein, which can help to repair the liver and restore it to normalcy. It can be an effective way to complement homeopathic approach, improving its effects on health.

Homeopathic practitioners also recommend patients to have regular physical activity. Patients are advised to take up activities that can help them to manage their weight. It is crucial to do so to improve overall well-being and amplify the effects of homeopathic remedies.

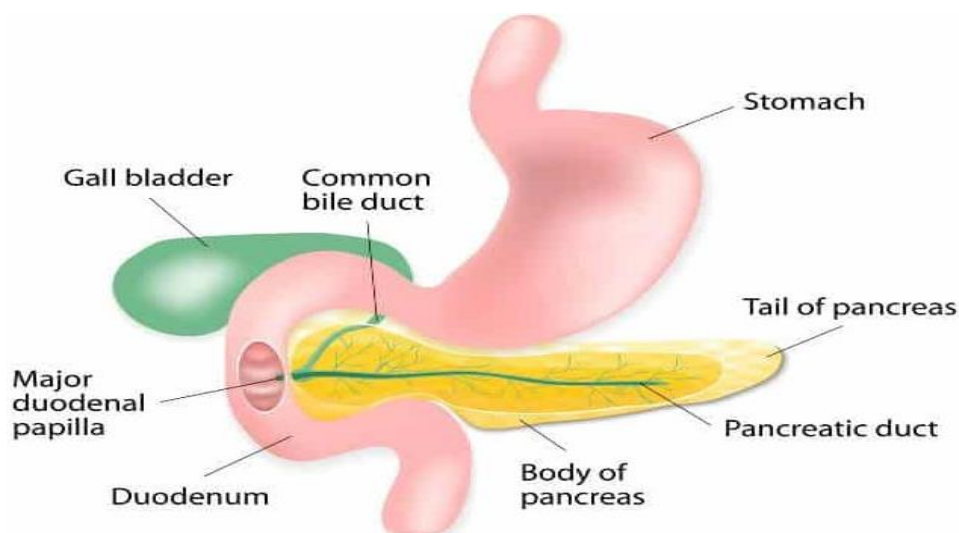
They also focus on monitoring liver function, from time to time. This periodic supervision can be significant, when it comes to improving live health and functioning.

Homoeopathic Remedies

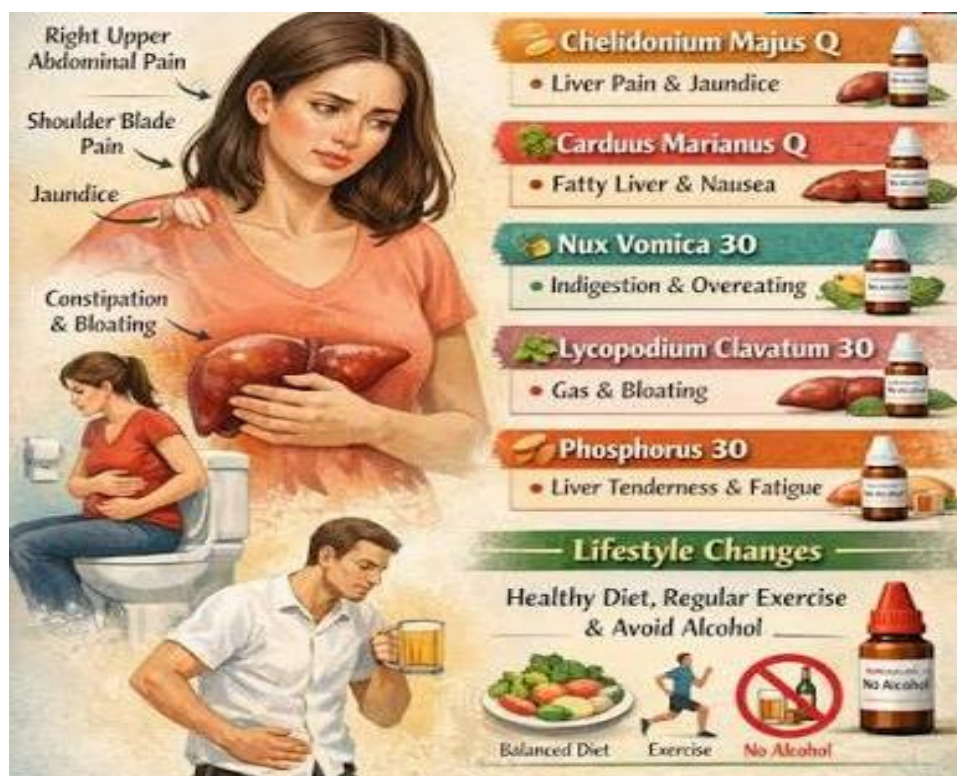
Homeopaths prescribe remedies according to the specific situation and condition of patients. While the use of individual remedies is the norm, a few medicines are chosen for homeopathic treatment and management of Chronic Liver Disease (CLD). These include:



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Chelidonium majus

This popular homeopathic remedy works on the liver and biliary system. Homeopaths generally prescribe it when patients mainly report of marked right-sided issues. They complain of aches in the liver, which radiate to right scapula. They often suffer from jaundice and eject clay-colored stools.

Upon examination, homeopaths display large, flabby tongue, which is coated yellow, with an imprint of teeth. They report of nausea, bitter taste and constant inclination to vomit. Such patients feel chilly and have a sluggish circulation, possibly due to a sedentary lifestyle. They feel worse with movement, when being touched or

due to change of weather. Patients feel better when they have meals or consume hot drinks.

Chelidonium majus is prescribed for a variety of liver conditions such as

- Obstructive jaundice,
- Hepatitis,
- Hepatic congestion, and
- Gallstone-related liver troubles

Carduus marianus

Carduus marianus has marked action on spleen, portal system and liver. Patients who need this remedy

complain of sensitive, swollen liver which feels painful upon pressure. They also show ascites with liver disease, scanty, dark urine (containing bile at times) and constipation with expulsion of hard stools followed by diarrhea. They may also develop jaundice, complaining of vomiting, nausea and bitter taste.

This remedy is often prescribed for alcoholics. Homeopaths may also pick this for people who suffer from liver cirrhosis or portal congestion who feel worse when they lie on their left side and better with motion.

Clinically, *Carduus marianus* is recommended for CLD patients with:

- Fatty liver,
- Liver cirrhosis, and
- Portal hypertension with ascites

Nux vomica

This widely recommended remedy works on the stomach, liver and portal system. Homeopaths prescribe them for patients with a history of using stimulants, alcohol abuse or following a rich diet. Hard, enlarged and sensitive liver are other indicators for the use of this remedy. It is recommended for people who suffer from constipation alternating with diarrhea, and have frequent ineffectual urge to defecate. They display hypochondriac heaviness with impatience and irritability. *Nux vomica* is used for irritable, thin individuals with a sedentary lifestyle. It is appropriate for businessmen and women.

The remedy is well-indicated for people who feel worse during the morning, after having food or stimulants, or following mental exertion. They feel better with warmth and rest. For Chronic Liver Disease patients who suffer from early cirrhosis, alcoholic liver disease or portal congestion, this is a remedy of choice.

Lycopodium clavatum

Lycopodium clavatum is a top pick for improving digestive organs, liver and portal system. It is used when there is a complain of sensitive liver region, marked by distension and fullness even after eating a small amount of food. They report of sour taste when they belch, and experience flatulence. Such patients complain of right-sided liver affections, which extend to the back. They report of ascites with abdominal bloating and emaciated upper body.

This is a chosen remedy for people who are intellectual but have a weak constitution. Middle-aged men suffering from digestive issues have worse complaints.

The remedy is prescribed for people who lie on their left side and feel worse from 4–8 pm, due to the intake of cold drinks. They feel better when they lie uncovered and have warm drinks and foods. Those with Cirrhosis with ascites, portal obstruction or Chronic hepatitis benefit from the use of this medicine.

Phosphorus

Blood, circulation and liver are the main focus of this remedy. Homeopaths prescribe Phosphorus when patients suffer from fatty degeneration of liver, abdominal and stomach burning, extreme fatigue after bleeding or passing stool. Some patients also display hemorrhagic tendency, such as blood in stools, epistaxis and bleeding gums.

Phosphorus is the remedy of choice for slender, tall, sensitive people with fair hair. It is specially indicated for individuals who feel worse in the evening, when they lie on the left side or have warm foods. They feel better when they have cold food and drinks.

In CLD patients, Phosphorus is clinically used in cases of hemorrhagic complications, degenerative liver changes and fatty liver.

Mercurius solubilis

Mercurius solubilis acts on the glands, liver and mucous membranes. It is mainly used when homeopaths know about symptoms like increased salivation, emaciation, weakness, tremors and Chronic hepatitis with jaundice. Patients also complain about heavy sweating, which worsens at night, as well as metallic taste and offensive breath.

This remedy is useful for weakly individuals with syphilitic taint, who are more susceptible to chronic glandular disease. Patients generally feel better with rest and when exposed to cold air. They feel worse at night and when their bed feels warm.

CLD patients having a syphilitic background of liver disease or suffering from chronic hepatitis benefit from the clinical use of *Mercurius solubilis*.

Sulphur

When patients are constitutionally psoric, this can be a beneficial remedy. It can work on the skin and liver. Homeopaths recommend Sulphur for patients who experience increased appetite but still look emaciated. It is useful for liver congestion with portal stasis. They complain about itching eruptions and show a strong craving for alcohol and sweets. They also have a burning feeling in orifices, soles and palms.

The remedy works best for lean patients who tend to stoop, feel hot and have skin that appears dirty. They feel worse while standing or bathing, and especially in the morning. In dry, warm weather, they are better.

The clinical use of this medicine is recommended for CLD sufferers who suffer from chronic cases with psoric base. It can be a beneficial intercurrent remedy for the treatment of Chronic Liver Disease.

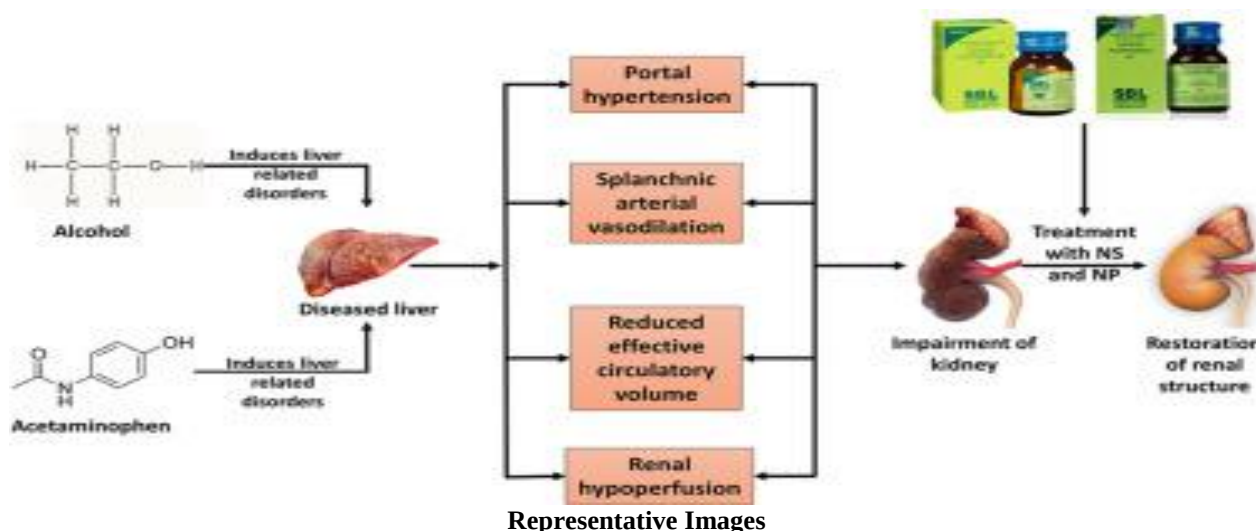
How Effective is Homeopathic Management of Chronic Liver Disease?

Homeopathy can be highly effective. The prognosis for CLD patients depends on

- Stage of fibrosis,
- Etiology, and

- Adherence to treatment

Outcomes can improve when CLD is detected early and constitutional homeopathic treatment is used. However, prognosis for advanced cases of cirrhosis can be quite poor.

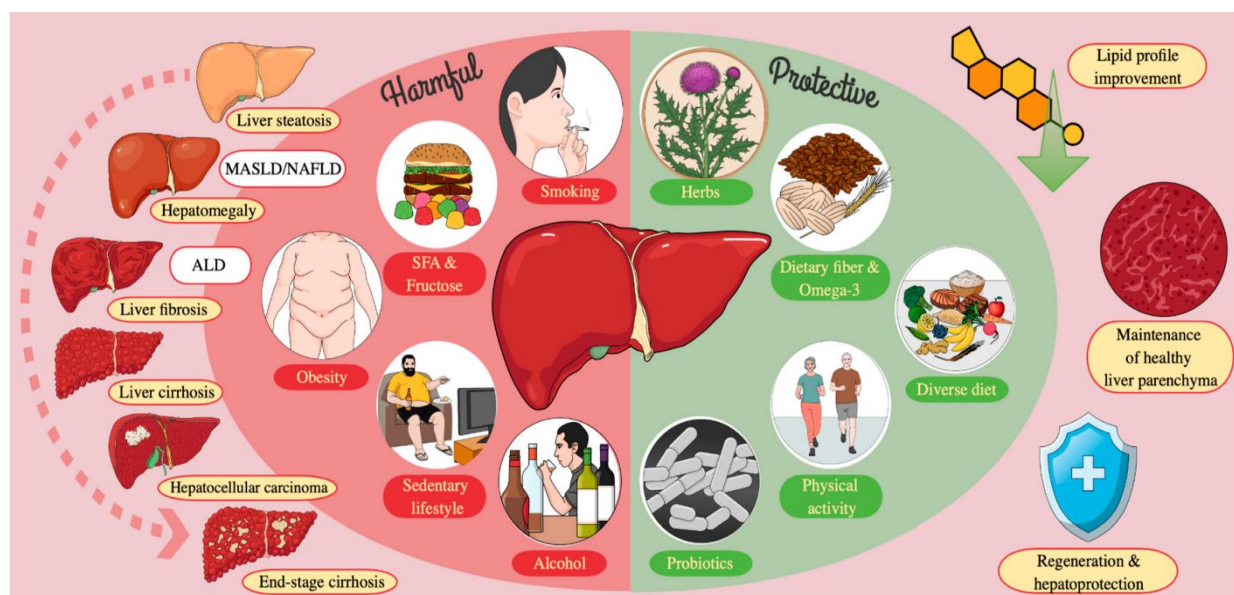


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Generally, the efficacy of homeopathic remedies can be excellent when patients follow the directions of homeopaths properly. When remedies are well-chosen, these can cure the underlying conditions for the disease, treating CLD from the root.

Chronic Liver Disease Prevention and Management Measures: Complementing Homeopathic Approach

Homeopaths depend not only on remedies but also on other measures and lifestyle changes. These are meant to complement homeopathic approach, and improve its effectiveness for patients. Homeopathic practitioners recommend a number of preventive measures, including:



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Working out regularly

Homeopathic practitioners recommend regular workouts highly, to keep the body in a perfectly fit condition. It can help all the glands and organs of the body, such as the liver, to perform optimally. Proper blood circulation is essential for repair and growth of damaged liver.

Regular workouts can reduce inflammation and fat as well as improve the way the body handles insulin.

Maintaining a healthy body weight

Obesity can lead to fat accumulation in the liver cells, causing severe liver inflammation and damage. It can

also lead to a number of health conditions such as high blood sugar or hypertension. These can further worsen the situation of patients, who can experience worsening of their Chronic Liver Disease symptoms.

By maintaining healthy body weight through diet and exercises, it is possible to prevent the progression of the disease as much as possible. It can complement the efforts of homeopathic remedies that are prescribed for the condition.

Reducing or avoiding alcohol

The damaging or harmful effects of alcohol on liver are well-known. The liver cells can be destroyed by toxic chemicals that are produced when the liver tries to break down alcohol. Homeopaths recommend patients to minimise the intake of alcohol or give it up altogether, if possible, for maximizing treatment outcomes.

Reducing the intake of red meat

Red meat can increase blood pressure and also puts the liver under stress. Eating too much red and processed meat can promote fat buildup, insulin resistance and chronic inflammation, thereby causing harm to the liver. It is best to reduce the consumption of red meat. Not having it at all until complete recovery can be the best way to go for patients who are already suffering from Chronic Liver Disease.

Preventing Hepatitis A and B with vaccination

Hepatitis A and B can have damaging consequences on liver health at any time and especially for patients who are suffering from Chronic Liver Disease. However, it is possible to prevent it with vaccines as well as with a few lifestyle and dietary modifications beforehand.

Having safe sex

By practicing safe sex, patients can also keep themselves safe from the sexual transmission of viral infections like Hepatitis B or C that can lead to liver inflammation and damage. It can keep them in better health, which is necessary for preventing, managing or treating Chronic Liver Disease or other liver conditions.

Not sharing personal stuff

This is highly recommended. Patients should not share their needles or personal stuff, such as razors, towels and toothbrushes with any other person, even those who are close to them. The transmission of blood-borne viruses can cause severe liver damage and disease. It is important for their personal hygiene and can keep them safe from highly infectious conditions that can jeopardize their liver health.

Following a well-balanced diet

Homeopathic practitioners cannot recommend this enough. It can be very easy to improve liver health and overall immunity in a safe, natural way when patients follow a diet comprising of proteins, vitamins and essential nutrients that can be good for liver.

Practicing the right hand-hygiene habits

Patient need to follow good hand-hygiene habits when they come indoors from work or other places. It is especially important to do so before having foods, so that no germs or infectious agent can enter the body. This is a healthy hygiene habit that is recommended to everyone, from children to adults.

Using effective hygienic habits

Chronic Liver Disease patients should also follow effective hygienic habits to be on the safe side, such as avoiding body piercing and tattooing. These activities can expose them to infections and health issues down the line. Avoiding them minimises the risks of the same.

Not taking unnecessary medications, unless recommended

It is also important for patients to stay away from the use of unnecessary medications for any health condition, unless these are recommended by a qualified doctor or homeopath. Physicians should also make sure of the ingredients of the medications that might be necessary for the treatment of any other health issue. These should not have any interaction with allopathic or homeopathic remedies for Chronic Liver Disease that have already been prescribed for patients.

Avoiding OTC medicines and self-medication

Before having any over-the-counter medication, patients should always check with their doctor, for safety reasons. They should also avoid self-medication, which is likely to have disastrous consequences for their health. In the absence of proper knowledge and medical expertise, using the wrong medicines can do more harm than good.

Going for health check-ups regularly

Patients should always go for regular health checkups to stay updated about any changes in their health condition. If any problem is detected, they can inform their homeopath about the same, and seek early remedies. They can also inform conventional medical care providers about those conditions and get treatment quickly. It is important to do so for the best interests of their health.

Following healthy lifestyle habits

Chronic Liver Disease sufferers should also try to follow as many healthy lifestyle habits as possible. Better sleep, avoiding late-night activities, following a regular healthy routine, adhering to a proper diet with rich, nutritious value, meditation, deep breathing exercises and other healthy habits can help them to boost their immunity. It can work wonders for their body and help to cure itself from within.

Using PPE, such as gloves and masks

It is highly important to use Personal Protection Equipment while working with fungicides, insecticides, toxic chemicals and paint. By minimizing exposure to toxins and infectious agents, patients can keep

themselves safer and healthier at all times. It can be very useful for them in fighting infections as well as Chronic Liver Disease and other conditions.

When patients follow these measures, it can be very useful in making homeopathic remedies much more effective for managing Chronic Liver Disease (CLD).

CONCLUSION

Across the globe, Chronic Liver Disease (CLD) continues to be a significant health issue. Surgical interventions and antiviral therapy constitute the conventional medical approach. However, homeopathy makes use of an individualized, holistic approach that addresses the constitution of patients as well as the disease. Chelidonium, Lycopodium, Nux vomica and Carduus marianus are some of the clinically important remedies. When homeopathic management is integrated with lifestyle modification measures, prognosis may improve. If you are suffering from CLD, the homeopathic approach can improve your quality of life.

BIOGRAPHY

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