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ETIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HEPATIC COMA

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Hepatic coma, also known as hepatic encephalopathy, is a serious medical condition that can occur as a result of liver disease. It is a type of brain dysfunction that happens when the liver is unable to effectively remove toxins from the blood, which can then build up in the brain and cause a range of neurological symptoms. The liver plays an essential role in the body's metabolic processes, including the breakdown and elimination of toxins. When the liver is damaged or not functioning properly, this can lead to a buildup of toxins in the blood, which can then cross the blood-brain barrier and affect brain function. Hepatic coma can occur in people with advanced liver disease, such as cirrhosis, or in those with acute liver failure.

The symptoms of hepatic coma can vary depending on the severity of the condition. In mild cases, a person may experience confusion, irritability, and difficulty concentrating. As the condition progresses, more severe symptoms can develop, such as lethargy, disorientation, and in some cases, seizures. There are several factors that can contribute to the development of hepatic coma. One of the main factors is the accumulation of ammonia in the blood. Ammonia is a waste product that is normally processed by the liver and removed from the body. However, when the liver is not functioning properly, ammonia can build up in the blood and cross the blood-brain barrier, where it can cause damage to brain cells and lead to neurological symptoms. Another factor that can contribute to the development of hepatic coma is the buildup of other toxins in the blood, such as merchantman's and phenols. These substances can also cross the blood-brain barrier and cause neurological symptoms. Treatment for hepatic coma typically involves addressing the underlying liver disease and managing the symptoms of the condition. In mild cases, treatment may involve dietary changes, such as reducing protein intake, to help reduce the production of ammonia in the body. In more severe cases, medications may be used to help reduce the buildup of toxins in the blood, or a procedure called a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) may be performed to help improve liver function. In some cases, a liver transplant may be necessary to treat hepatic coma. This is particularly true in cases of acute liver failure, where the liver is severely damaged and unable to function properly.

Hepatic coma is a serious medical condition that requires prompt diagnosis and treatment. If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of hepatic coma, it is important to seek medical attention right away. With the appropriate treatment, it is possible to manage the symptoms of the condition and improve overall outcomes for patients.