



The Part of Liver Work within the Setting of Cirrhosis with Inveterate Disease and Basic Sickness

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DESCRIPTION

Chronic critical illness is a condition that presents a significant challenge to patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals alike. Unlike acute critical illness, which often resolves within a relatively short period, chronic critical illness is characterized by a prolonged state of severe physiological instability. This condition poses unique medical, psychological, and social challenges, requiring a comprehensive understanding and multidisciplinary approach to management. In this article, we will delve into the complexities of chronic critical illness, explore its causes and manifestations, discuss the challenges faced by patients and caregivers, and highlight the importance of a holistic care approach to improve patient outcomes. Chronic critical illness refers to a state of severe physiological instability that persists beyond the acute phase of critical illness, typically extending for weeks to months. Patients with chronic critical illness often require prolonged mechanical ventilation, suffer from multiple organ dysfunctions, and experience significant morbidity and mortality rates. The condition is commonly seen in patients who have experienced a severe insult to their health, such as trauma, sepsis, or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). The precise mechanisms underlying chronic critical illness are not fully understood, but it is believed to result from a combination of factors, including the sustained activation of the immune system, persistent inflammation, and organ dysfunction. The complex interplay between these factors can lead to a state of ongoing instability and a vicious cycle of worsening organ dysfunction. Patients with chronic critical illness present with a myriad of clinical manifestations and face numerous challenges throughout their illness trajectory. Physiologically, they often exhibit respiratory failure, requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation, along with cardiovascular instability, renal dysfunction, and impaired gastrointestinal function. These patients frequently experience muscle wasting, impaired im-

mune function, and nutritional deficiencies, further complicating their clinical picture. Psychologically, chronic critical illness can have a profound impact on patients and their families. Prolonged stays in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), frequent invasive procedures, and the uncertainty surrounding prognosis can lead to high levels of anxiety, depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and impaired quality of life. Caregivers, including family members and healthcare professionals, also face significant emotional and physical burdens while providing support and managing the complexities of long-term care. The challenges in managing chronic critical illness are multifaceted. They encompass medical decision-making regarding life-sustaining treatments, ethical dilemmas surrounding end-of-life care, resource allocation, and long-term care planning. Additionally, the transition from the acute phase of critical illness to the chronic phase requires a shift in care goals from a focus on cure to one that emphasizes symptom management, quality of life, and patient-centred care. Given the complexity of chronic critical illness, a holistic and multidisciplinary approach is paramount in providing comprehensive care. This approach involves a collaborative effort among healthcare professionals, including intensivists, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, nutritionists, psychologists, social workers, and palliative care specialists. Chronic critical illness is a complex condition that poses numerous challenges for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. It requires a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to address the physical, psychological, and social dimensions of care.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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