

Acute Kidney Injury in Liver cirrhosis

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Acute kidney injury(AKI) is a common complication in patients with cirrhosis and is associated with an increased mortality. Despite the general poor prognosis of cirrhotic patients with AKI, potentially effective treatments do exist. However, these therapies should be tailored to the specific etiology and delivered in a timely fashion. Recently, new criteria for the diagnosis of AKI have been proposed in patients with cirrhosis. Although further studies are needed to validate the values of new criteria in this specific population, these new criteria may allow earlier diagnosis of AKI and facilitate earlier intervention that could improve patients' survival. Furthermore, the clinicians may be able to risk-stratify cirrhotic patients with AKI by using these new criteria.

The most common etiologies of AKI in this setting are prerenal azotemia, hepatorenal syndrome and acute tubular necrosis. Despite the prognostic significance of etiology, it may be difficult to determine the causes of AKI in the setting of cirrhosis. So far, there are no precise biomarkers that can reliably categorize the etiology of AKI in patients with liver cirrhosis. Novel biomarkers may help differential diagnosis and facilitate appropriate treatments.