IN A NUTSHELL

The knowledge platform for general practitioners

Child-Pugh Score

The Child-Pugh score is used to classify the severity of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis to estimate prognosis and mortality. Hepatic encephalopathy is graded according to the West Haven criteria (see appendix).

Bilirubin
?mol/l ?
☐ Cholestatic liver disease (PBC, PSC)
Albumin
g/l ?
INR
Hepatic Encephalopathy (Grading)
○ None ○ Grade I-II ○ Grade III–IV
Aszites
○ Absent ○ Slight ○ Moderate
Child-Pugh A (points)
1-year survival rate: 100 %
Perioperative mortality in abdominal surgery: 10 %
Child-Pugh B (points)
1-year survival rate: 79.7 %
Perioperative mortality in abdominal surgery: 30 %

Child-Pugh C (points)

1-year survival rate: 44.9 %

Perioperative mortality in abdominal surgery: 82 %

Interpretation

Child-Pugh A B C
1-year survival rate [4] 100 % 79.7 % 44.9 %
Perioperative mortality in abdominal surgery [5] 10 % 30 % 82 %

Appendix

West Haven criteria for the diagnosis of hepatic encephalopathy [1]

Grade I Minor loss of consciousness, euphoria or anxiety, shortened attention span, impaired calculations (addition, subtraction), altered sleep patterns

Grade II Lethargy or apathy, chronological disorientation, significant alteration in personality, inappropriate behavior, dyspraxia, asterixis

Grade III Somnolence and stupor, reaction only to stimuli, confusion, severe disorientation, bizarre behavior

Grade IV Coma

References

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- 4. Infante-Rivard C, Esnaola S, Villeneuve JP. Clinical and statistical validity of conventional prognostic factors in predicting short-term survival among cirrhotics. Hepatology 1987; 7: 660-664
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