

Doctor: How has Jawad been doing since your last visit?

Patient's Mother: Hes still having some issues, doctor. The abdominal distention hasnt improved, and hes still been very sleepy and irritable. He also has loose stools after every meal, and Ive noticed black, tarry stools quite frequently.

Doctor: I see. How is his cough? Has it gotten any better?

Patient's Mother: His cough is dry and mild, and it's been going on for about 15 days now. It doesn't seem to be getting worse, though.

Doctor: Any other new symptoms, or is it just the same as before?

Patient's Mother: Theres no new bleeding or vomiting, but he has been extremely drowsy and not very responsive. He isnt even responding to pain, which is worrying. His abdomen is still distended, and when I checked, I could feel a fluid thrill.

Doctor: How's his appetite and behavior? Has he been eating normally?

Patient's Mother: His appetite is not great, and he is just sleeping a lot. Hes very irritable when hes awake and doesnt seem to be his usual self.

Doctor: Lets go over some of the key investigations and examinations weve done. On his ultrasound on March 17th, 2024, it showed mild hepatomegaly, but the texture was homogeneous. His lab results from May 2024 showed a few important things: his hemoglobin was 14, and his platelets were at 191. His liver function tests showed elevated GGT (227) and a slightly low albumin level (2.9). His INR is 1.53, which suggests some risk with clotting.

Patient's Mother: Yes, I remember those numbers. The doctor had mentioned his liver being affected and had done some testing, but I'm still unclear on what exactly this means for him.

Doctor: Jawad is suspected to have congenital hepatic fibrosis, which has led to some decompensation, particularly hepatic encephalopathy, ascites, and varices. We've seen him previously for endoscopies. The last one was on May 21, 2024, and showed grade 1 varices with no gastroenteropathy.

Patient's Mother: He had some banding done earlier, right? Did that help at all?

Doctor: Yes, there were bands applied during his previous endoscopies, including one in July 2023. But as you can see, we are still monitoring him closely for varices and any changes in his condition.

Patient's Mother: He seems much sleepier now. Is that because of his liver condition?

Doctor: Yes, the drowsiness and lack of responsiveness you're seeing can be linked to hepatic encephalopathy. His liver is struggling to process toxins, which may be affecting his brain function.

Doctor: I see that you're following the medication regimen. He is currently on:

Inderal 10mg twice a day for his blood pressure and varices.

A D E Drops, 5 drops daily for his vitamin A, D, and E.

MCT Oil, 5ml twice a day for nutritional support.

Spironolactone, 6.25mg three times a day, for ascites.

Vitamin K injections, twice a week, to help with clotting.

Patient's Mother: Yes, hes been on these medications. Is there anything else that needs to be changed or added?

Doctor: Were going to continue with this regimen for now. The plan includes medical optimization, especially for the hepatic encephalopathy and ascites. I will also refer you to Childrens Hospital Lahore for further management, as they can provide additional support for his liver condition. Well also need to arrange blood donors for a potential liver transplant, so please keep that in mind.

Patient's Mother: That sounds serious. I know his blood group is AB+, so Ill make sure to arrange two donors as instructed.

Doctor: Yes, thats crucial. Well continue to monitor his liver function and perform more tests, including a liver biopsy and imaging to better assess his condition. I also recommend we monitor ammonia levels and consider starting anti-ammonia treatments.

Patient's Mother: Should I be worried about his condition worsening?

Doctor: Its important to be cautious, but we are taking the necessary steps to stabilize his condition. However, the liver is quite a delicate organ, and we need to keep a close eye on him. Well continue to monitor his varices and hepatic function closely.

Patient's Mother: Thank you for explaining everything. Ill make sure to follow the instructions and arrange for the blood donors.

Doctor: You're welcome. We'll take it step by step, and I'll see you back in a few months for follow-up. Make sure you continue with the prescribed medications, and let me know if there's any change in his condition.

Follow-up Plan:

Continue current medications as prescribed.

Liver biopsy and shearwave elastography to assess liver stiffness.

Anti-ammonia treatment and monitoring of ammonia levels.

Blood donors arranged for potential liver transplant.

Follow-up at Children's Hospital Lahore for medical optimization and transplant counseling.

Follow-up after 3 months at PKLI.