

The Liver Care Center



240+

Novel diagnostic tests performed for biliary atresia

950+

Outpatients with liver disease evaluated each year

3,200+

Gene mutation screens for children with chronic liver disease

816

Liver transplants since 1986, including multi-organ transplants
(through July 2022)



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #1 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery and #3 in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.

The Liver Care Center of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center provides advanced, multidisciplinary care for children and adolescents with acute and chronic liver disease. Our experienced specialists develop personalized treatment plans that target the cause of each patient's condition. Each year, more than 900 patients come to our clinic from around the United States and throughout the world.

PERSONALIZED CARE PLAN

Our experienced hepatologists, liver surgeons, and specialized nurses use state-of-the-art protocols to evaluate patients and begin treatment as quickly as possible. Treatment is personalized, family-centered and designed to improve short- and long-term outcomes.

COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION

All patients begin their appointment with a hepatologist and a nurse care manager. Depending on the extent and type of disease, patients may also be evaluated by other experts from our team, including a liver surgeon, radiologist, pathologist and dietitian. The goal is to complete the evaluation and develop a treatment plan in a timely fashion.

CONDITIONS TREATED

We evaluate and treat a wide range of chronic liver diseases, including:

- Autoimmune hepatitis
- Hepatitis B and C virus infection
- Alagille syndrome
- Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency
- Biliary atresia
- Chronic cholestasis (jaundice)
- Cirrhosis
- Cystic fibrosis-associated liver disease
- Defects of bile acid metabolism
- Drug toxicity (drug-induced liver injury)
- Elevated liver enzymes
- Glycogen storage disease
- Hepatoblastoma
- Liver disease of unknown cause
- Liver tumors and vascular diseases
- Metabolic liver disease
- Neonatal cholestasis (jaundice)
- Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis/fatty liver disease
- Sclerosing cholangitis
- Progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis
- Wilson's disease

The Liver Care Center is the home for the Center for Autoimmune Liver Disease, which provides timely, comprehensive care for children with autoimmune hepatitis and sclerosing cholangitis. This center of excellence conducts innovative studies to identify biomarkers of disease, dissect mechanisms of liver/biliary injury, and leads the Autoimmune Liver Network for Kids (A-LiNK) to improve the treatment outcomes through QI science and multi-center collaboration.

The Liver Care Center also houses the Undiagnosed and Rare Liver Disease Center, which focuses on clinical and translational research to seek accurate diagnoses to rare genetic liver diseases, develop improved therapies, and improve patient outcomes - with the goal of developing a cure.



TREATMENT TEAM

Hepatology

Alexander Miethke, MD
Medical Director

Akihiro Asai, MD, PhD

William Balistreri, MD

Kathleen Campbell, MD

Samuel Kocoshis, MD

Alexander Miethke, MD

Julie Osborn, MD

Anna Peters, MD, PhD

Michael Rogers, DO

Amy Taylor, MD

Liver Transplant/ Hepatobiliary Surgeons

Greg Tiao, MD
Surgical Director

Alexander Bondoc, MD

Nurse Care Managers

Macy Siemer, RN

Brittany Taylor, RN

Emily Vincent, RN

Ann Waltherman, RN

Nutrition

Kathryn Hitchcock, RD

Intake Coordinator

Patty Spragen

TREATMENT APPROACH

Before a patient's first visit to our clinic, we conduct a thorough review of past test results and therapies. Our multidisciplinary team meets to discuss the case, identify whether consultations are needed and plan the tests for the initial visit. Our staff then contacts the family and reviews the plan before the appointment.

Our diagnostic capabilities help our team create a step-wise, cost-effective treatment plan. State-of-the-art technologies include testing for errors of bile acid metabolism, thorough screening for metabolic diseases, genetic mutation screening for inheritable diseases of the liver, biopsy interpretation and radiologic imaging.

For children and adolescents with advanced stages of liver disease, our experts will proceed with a timely evaluation for liver transplantation. Our liver clinic and transplant teams work closely to determine the need to place a patient on the transplant list and to implement a comprehensive treatment protocol that minimizes complications and improves post-transplant outcomes.

RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CLINICAL CARE

In addition to using state-of-the-art diagnostics and therapeutics, our experts conduct research to develop innovative diagnostics and new treatment strategies for children with liver disease. The research projects, funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and local and national organizations, focus on:

- Biomarkers for biliary atresia
- The efficacy of corticosteroids in biliary atresia
- Genetic mutations in liver disease
- Staging liver disease in cystic fibrosis
- New therapies for autoimmune hepatitis and sclerosing cholangitis
- Biomarkers and therapies for fatty liver disease
- New therapies for hepatitis B and C
- Treatment for errors of bile acid metabolism
- Diagnosis and treatment of liver tumors
- Diagnosis and individualized treatment for rare genetic liver diseases through the Undiagnosed and Rare Liver Disease Center
- New treatments for pediatric acute liver failure

Novel clinical studies

✓ **20** Observational studies ✓ **5** Clinical trials

For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link® at 1-888-987-7997.

For international inquiries, call +1-513-636-3100 or email international@cchmc.org.