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ASSIGNMENT.

1.Why is the portal vein of the liver receiving more blood from the vein than it receives from the artery.

2.Discuss five disease conditions of the liver.

ANSWERS

1. The hepatic portal system is so named since it connects capillaries of the intestines and other digestive organs to modified capillaries (hepatic sinusoids) of the liver. As intestinal blood is nutrient-rich for a few hours post-prandial (after a meal), the hepatic portal system will be able to claim available nutrients before blood is distributed to the rest of the body.

Additionally, the hepatic portal system plays a key role in cleansing the blood of the bacteria and toxins that are picked up by the blood while it is being perfused through the intestines.

Other than the previously mentioned hepatic and related veins, the principal associated intestinal veins are the inferior mesenteric vein, superior mesenteric vein, and the splenic vein (which converges with the pancreatic veins before it meets the inferior mesenteric vein, and ultimately meets the superior mesenteric vein). The left and right gastric veins, which form an arc along the lesser curvature of the stomach, also empty into the hepatic portal vein. Broadly, the hepatocytes that process the blood play a large role in protein synthesis, carbohydrate metabolism, lipid metabolism, and detoxification.

2.[Fascioliasis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascioliasis); A parasitic infection of liver caused by [liver fluke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver_fluke). It affects humans, but its main host is ruminants such as [cattle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cattle) and [sheep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheep). The disease progresses through four distinct phases; an initial

incubation phase of between a few days up to three months with little or no symptoms; an invasive or acute phase which may manifest with: fever, malaise, abdominal pain, gastrointestinal symptoms, urticaria, [anemia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anemia), [jaundice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaundice), and [respiratory symptoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respiratory_symptoms). The disease later progresses to a latent phase with less symptoms and ultimately into a chronic or obstructive phase months to years later. In the chronic state the disease causes inflammation of the [bile ducts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bile_duct), [gall bladder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholecystitis) and may cause [gall stones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholelithiasis) as well as [fibrosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fibrosis). While chronic inflammation is connected to increased cancer rates.

Up to half of those infected display no symptoms, and diagnosis is difficult because the worm eggs are often missed in fecal examination. The methods of detection are through fecal examination, parasite-specific antibody detection, or radiological diagnosis, as well as [laparotomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laparotomy).

[Hepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis); It is an inflammation of the liver, is caused by various viruses ([viral hepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viral_hepatitis)) also by some [liver toxins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatotoxicity) (e.g. [alcoholic hepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic_hepatitis)), autoimmunity ([autoimmune hepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autoimmune_hepatitis)) or hereditary conditions. Some people with hepatitis have no symptoms, whereas others develop yellow discoloration of the skin and whites of the eyes ([jaundice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaundice)), [poor appetite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anorexia_%28symptom%29), [vomiting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vomiting), [tiredness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatigue_%28medicine%29), [abdominal pain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdominal_pain), and [diarrhea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diarrhea). Hepatitis is [acute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acute_%28medicine%29) if it resolves within six months, and [chronic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronic_condition) if it lasts longer than six months. Acute hepatitis can [resolve on its own](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-limiting_%28biology%29), progress to chronic hepatitis, or (rarely) result in [acute liver failure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acute_liver_failure). Chronic hepatitis may progress to scarring of the liver ([cirrhosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirrhosis)), [liver failure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver_failure), and [liver cancer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver_cancer).

Hepatitis is most commonly caused by the viruses [hepatitis A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_A), [B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_B), [C](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_C), [D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_D), and [E](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_E). Other causes include [heavy alcohol use](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholism), certain medications, toxins, other infections, [autoimmune diseases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autoimmune_diseases), and [non-alcoholic steatohepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-alcoholic_steatohepatitis) (NASH). Hepatitis A and E are mainly spread by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis B is mainly [sexually transmitted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexually_transmitted_infection), but may also be [passed from mother to baby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertically_transmitted_infection) during [pregnancy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pregnancy) or [childbirth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childbirth) and spread through infected [blood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood). Hepatitis C is commonly spread through infected blood such as may

occur during [needle sharing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Needle_sharing) by [intravenous drug users](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_injection). Hepatitis D can only infect people already infected with hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, B, and D are [preventable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine-preventable_diseases) with [immunization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immunization). Medications may be used to treat chronic viral hepatitis. Antiviral medications are recommended in all with chronic hepatitis C, except those with conditions that limit their life expectancy. There is no specific treatment for NASH; however, physical activity, a [healthy diet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthy_diet), and [weight loss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weight_loss) are recommended. [Autoimmune hepatitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autoimmune_hepatitis) may be treated with [medications to suppress the immune system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immunosuppressants). A [liver transplant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver_transplant) may be an option in both acute and chronic liver failure.

[Alcoholic liver disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic_liver_disease); is a hepatic manifestation of [alcohol overconsumption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_abuse), including [fatty liver disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatty_liver), alcoholic hepatitis, and [cirrhosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirrhosis). Analogous terms such as "drug-induced" or "toxic" liver disease are also used to refer to disorders caused by various drugs.

[Fatty liver disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatty_liver) (hepatic [steatosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steatosis)); is a reversible condition where large vacuoles of [triglyceride](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triglyceride) fat accumulate in liver cells. [Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-alcoholic_fatty_liver_disease) is a spectrum of disease associated with obesity and [metabolic syndrome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metabolic_syndrome).

[Hereditary diseases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hereditary_disease) that cause damage to the liver include [hemochromatosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemochromatosis) involving accumulation of [iron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron) in the body, and [Wilson's disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson%27s_disease). Liver damage is also a clinical feature of [alpha 1-antitrypsin deficiency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpha_1-antitrypsin_deficiency) and [glycogen storage disease type II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glycogen_storage_disease_type_II).