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PHARMACOLOGY
ANA202

1. Why do we have portal vein or the liver receiving more blood from the vein than it receives from the artery?

In carrying venous blood from the gastrointestinal tract to the liver, the portal vein accomplishes two tasks: it supplies the liver with metabolic substrates and it ensures that substances ingested are first processed by the liver before reaching the systemic circulation.

The portal vein supplies approximately 75 percent of blood flow to the liver. The portal vein is not a true vein, which means it does not drain into the heart. Instead, it brings nutrient-rich blood to the liver from the gastrointestinal tract and spleen.

The liver is connected to two large blood vessels, the hepatic artery and the portal vein. The hepatic artery carries blood from the aorta to the liver, whereas the portal vein carries blood containing the digested nutrients from the entire gastrointestinal tract, and also from the spleen and pancreas to the liver.

The hepatic portal vein supplies 75% of the blood to the liver, while the hepatic arteries supply the remaining 25%

2. Discuss five disease conditions of the liver

- Hepatitis A: Most people get it by eating or drinking something that's tainted by fecal matter. You might not have any symptoms. It usually goes away by itself within 6 months without any long-term harm.

- Hepatitis B: You get it from somebody else, such as through unprotected sex or taking drugs with shared needles. If it lasts longer than 6 months, it makes you more likely to get liver cancer or other diseases.

- Hepatitis C: comes from infected blood that gets into your blood. You might get it if you take drugs with shared needles or in connection with HIV. If you're a health-care worker, you might get it from an infected needle that accidentally sticks you. Symptoms may not show up for many years. For reasons that aren't quite clear, baby boomers are at risk for hepatitis C and should be tested for it.

- Primary Biliary cholangitis: attacks tiny tubes in your liver called bile ducts. They carry bile, a chemical that helps you digest food. When the ducts are injured, the bile backs up inside your liver and scars it. Women come down with this more often than men.

- Liver cancer: affects women more often than men, and African-Americans more often than whites. Your doctor might call it hepatocellular carcinoma. It's more likely if you have hepatitis or drink too much.