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# Third lecture 2019 -2020 complication of cirrhosis

# Complication of cirrhosis

- ▣ **Ascites**
- ▣ **Varices**
- ▣ **Encephalopathy**
- ▣ **Hepatocellular carcinoma**
- ▣ **HRS**

# Outline



- Ascites is the most common of the major complications of liver cirrhosis

# Etymology

- Ascites
- Greek askiEs : “Dropsy”
- Meaning leather bag , sack
  
- 80% due to Cirrhosis (USA)

- Although Ascites is not the root of all evil, many of the catastrophic complications of cirrhosis are rooted in ascites

Harold Conn

# Statistics

- 50% of cirrhotics will develop Ascites within 10 years of diagnosis.
- 
- 50% die within 5 years of onset

# Ascites

occurs when there is a disruption in the pressure forces between intravascular and extravascular fluid spaces, which allows extravascular fluid to accumulate in the anterior peritoneal cavity.

## Decreased osmotic pressure :

A- Hypoalbuminemia:

++ Nephrotic syndrome

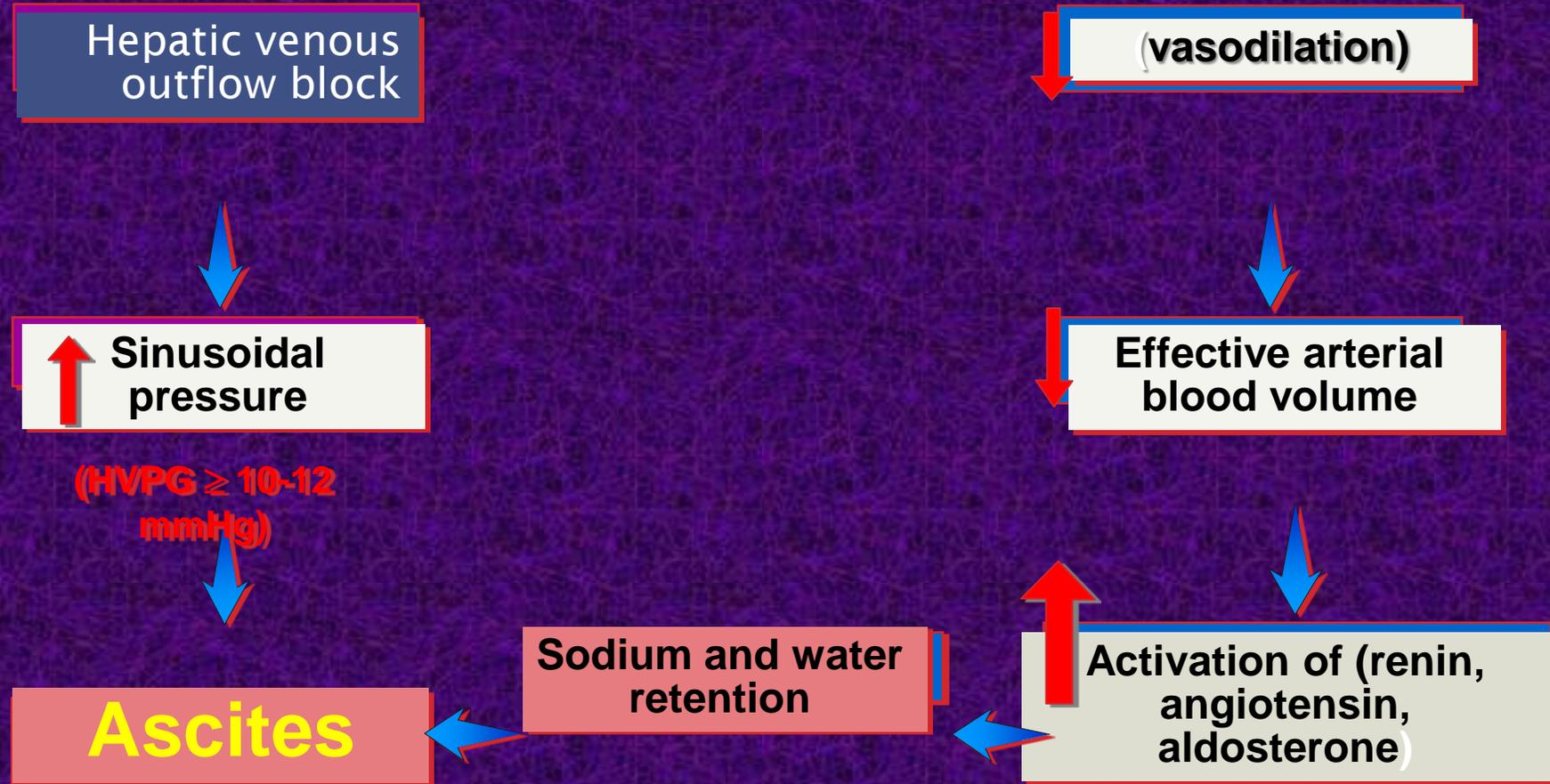
++Protein-losing enteropathy

++Malnutrition

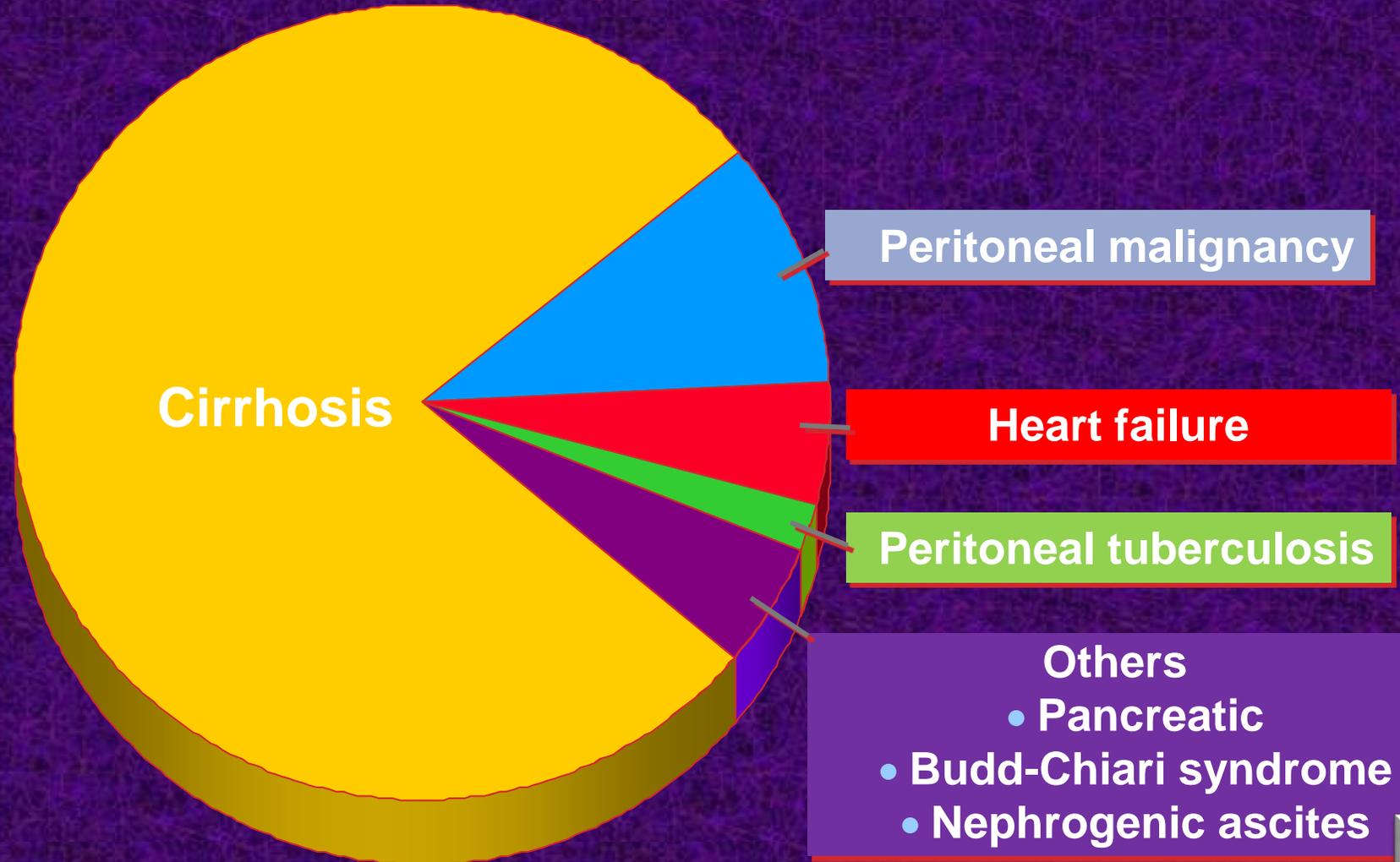
B- Cirrhosis or hepatic insufficiency

# PATHOGENESIS OF ASCITES

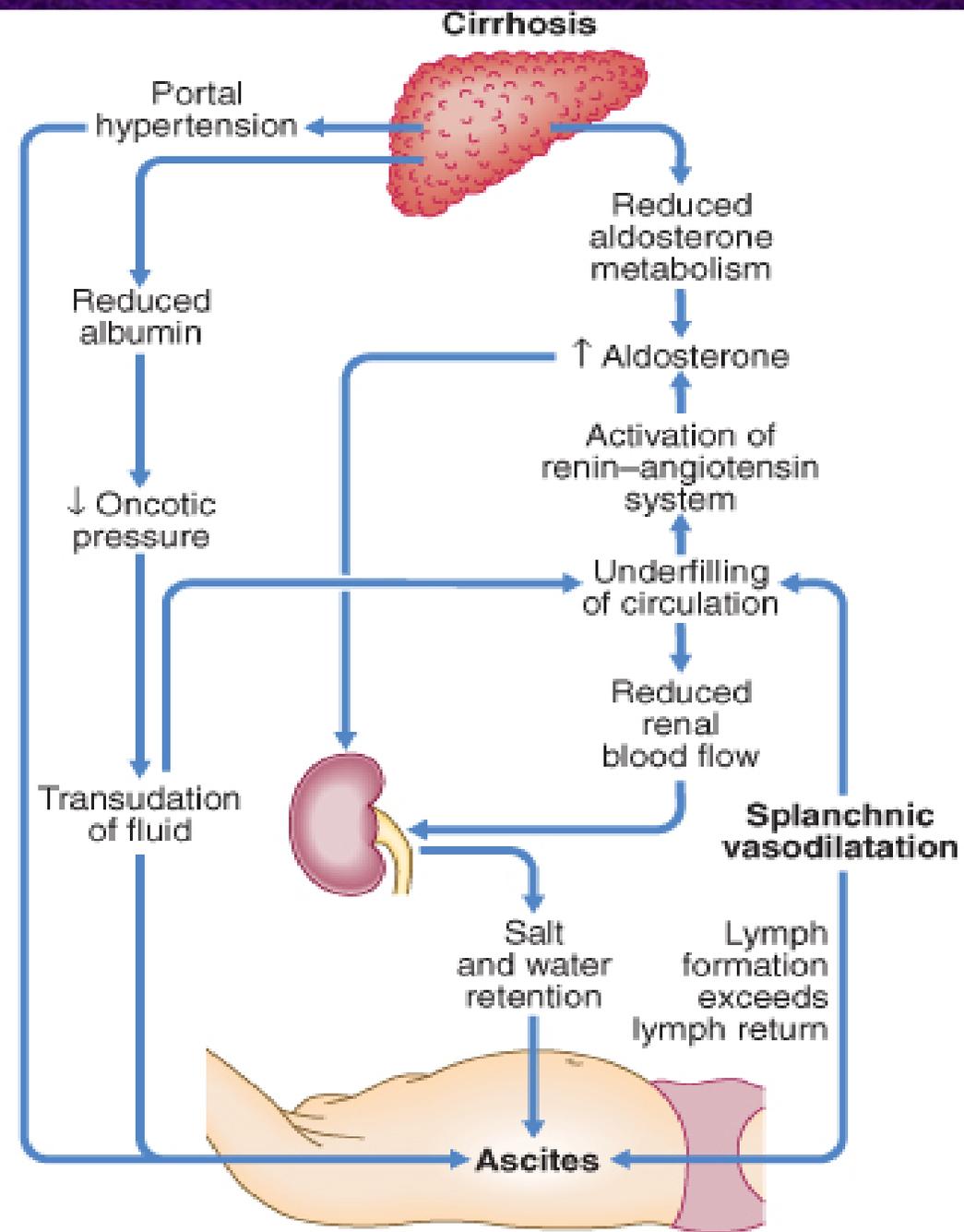
## Cirrhosis



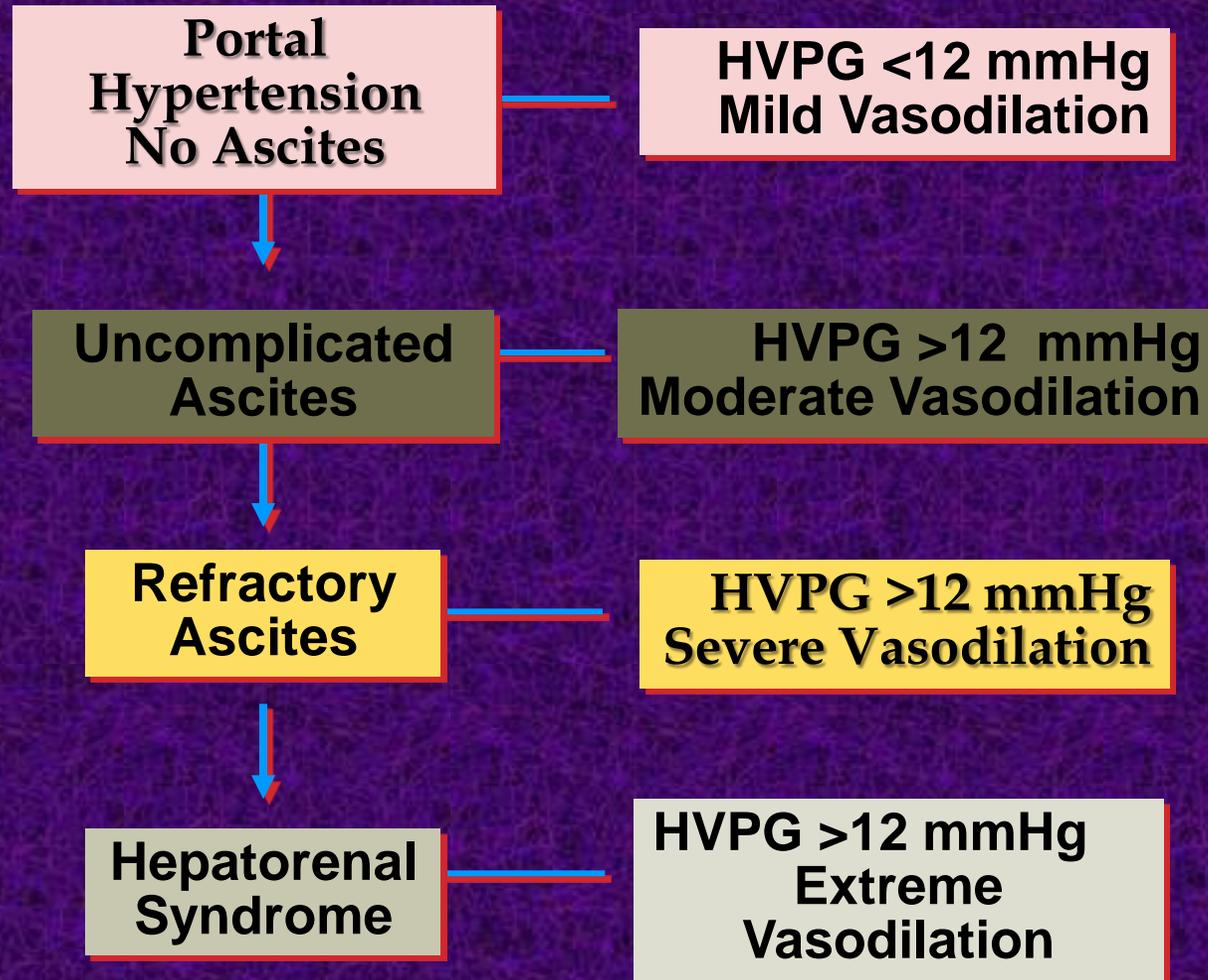
# Cirrhosis is the Most Common Cause of Ascites



| <b><u>Portal Hypertensive</u></b><br><b>SAAG<math>\geq</math>1.1</b>  | <b><u>Nonportal Hypertensive</u></b><br><b>SAAG<math>&lt;</math>1.1</b>   |
|---|---|
| Cirrhosis<br><u>Heart Failure</u><br>Cancer (nonperitoneal)<br>Budd-Chiari,<br>Portal Vein thrombosis<br>Alcoholic hepatitis<br>Acute liver failure<br>Sinusoidal obstructive<br>syndrome (VOD) | Peritoneal Carcinomatosis<br>Heart Failure<br>Pancreatic Ascites<br>Nephrotic Syndrome<br>Chylous<br>Serositis (CVD)<br>TB<br>Myxedema<br>Biliary ascites |



# Natural History of Ascites



hepatic venous pressure gradient (HVPG)

# Complications of ascites Cirrhosis

- - - **SBP**
- Abd. Hernia
- Impairment of respiratory function
- **HRS** rare without ascites

# IN LIVER CIRRHOSIS

▣ Presence of ascites needs 2 things

1-portal hypertention

2- retention of salt and water due to liver failure



# Tests of Ascites/Typical initial tests

- ▣ **Cell count**
- ▣ **Total protein**
- ▣ **Albumin**

# Diagnosis of Ascites/optional

- ▣ Culture Glucose
- ▣ LDH
- ▣ Amylase
- ▣ Gram stain

| SAAG       | Testing   | Diagnosis                      | Confirm               |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\geq 1.1$ | TP < 2.5  | cirrhosis                      | Imaging, liver biopsy |
| $\geq 1.1$ | Glucose < 50,<br>LDH < 225<br>+culture, GS              | SBP                            |                       |
| $\geq 1.1$ | +cytology   | Carcinomatosis+<br>portal htin | Cancer workup         |
| < 1.1      | TP > 2.5  | Cardiac ascites                | ECHO                  |
| < 1.1      | TP > 1.1,<br>glucose < 50<br>Polymicrobial<br>LDH < 225 | 2ndary peritonitis             | Abd imaging/CT abd    |
| < 1.1      | Amylase > 100   | Pancreatic ascites             | Imaging, ERCP         |

# Is it common?

- 1/3 of admitted cirrhotic pts will have ascites
- either
- On admission
- Developed during Hospital stay

# Treatment of Ascities

Patience is the key to ascities  
therapy

# Management of Ascites

## Diuretic Therapy

### Dosage

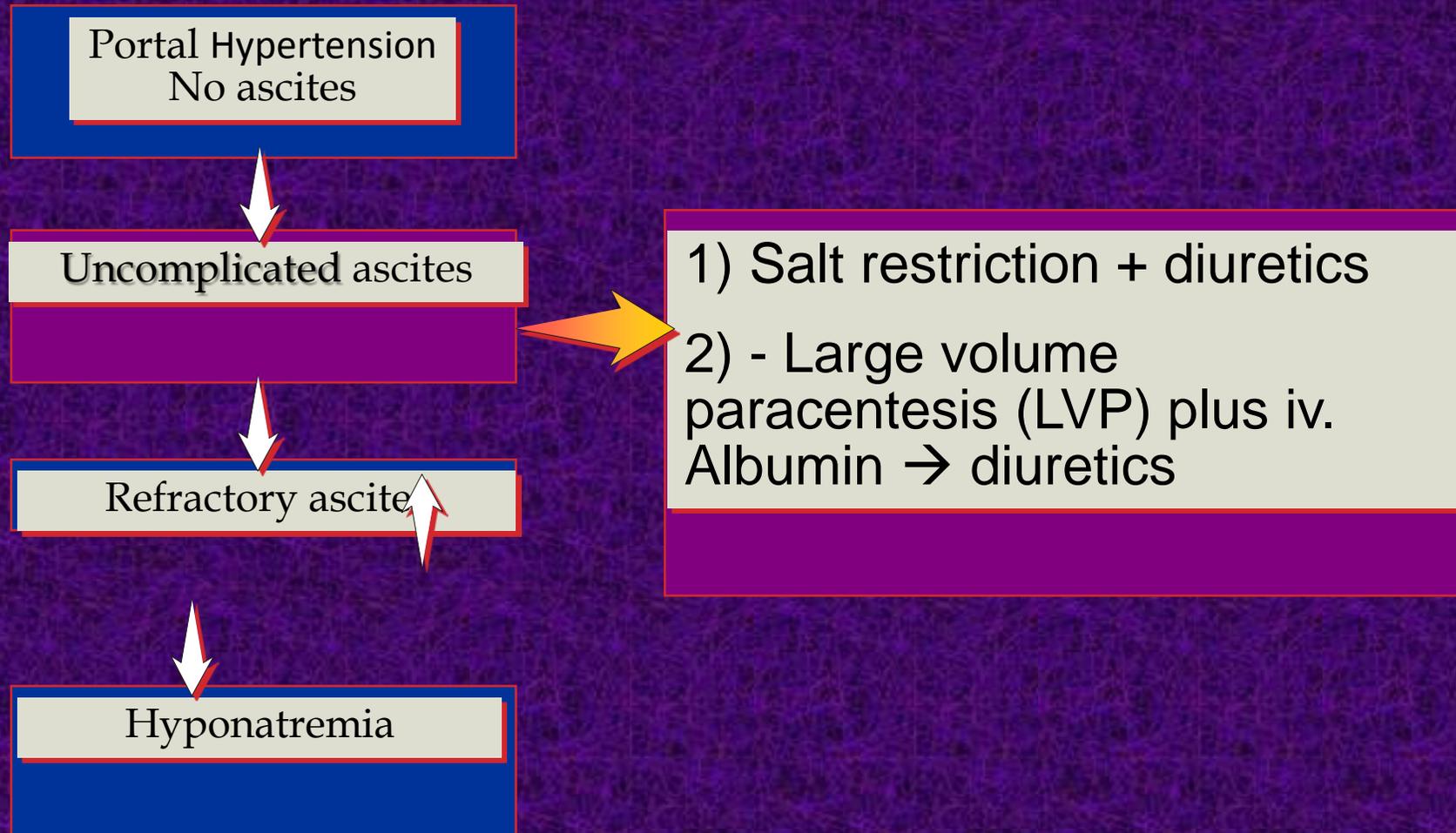
- Spironolactone or /with
- Furosemide
- Low sodium diet
- TIPPS
- Large paracentesis
- Fluid restriction if Na is low

Diuretic  
Therapy

Low  
sodium  
diet

Large  
para-  
centesis

# Treatment of Ascites



# Key concepts

**Spironolactone is the mainstay of ascites therapy.**

Loop and Thiazide diuretics should not be used as either primary or monotherapy, they are adjuncts to sodium restriction and Spironolactone.

# Bacterial infection in cirrhotic

- **20% SBP**
- 20% UTI
- 15% pneumonia
- 12% Bacteremia

Fernandez et al Hepatology 2002

# ?factors

## Developing Bacterial infection

2 main factors :

1-Severity of liver disease

2-GI bleed: 50% cirrhotic admitted with bleed will develop SBP

# SBP

- ▣ 20% of cirrhotic with ascites
- ▣ 15% mortality
- ▣ 50% are bacteremic

# BP Spontaneous?

## Absence of:

- Intra abdominal inflammatory Focus  
pancreatitis ,cholecystitis, abscess
- Hollow viscus perforation

# SBP

- ▣ **Diagnosis >250 PMN**
- ▣ **>500 WBC or gram stain**

# peritonitis

- Infected ascites

**>250 PMN**

# Early recognition of SBP

- Fever
- Abdominal Pain
- **Worsening of renal failure**

# SBP

- 70% of patients present with fever
- 60% with abdominal pain,
- 50% of with changes in mental status
- 40% of with abdominal tenderness

# Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis (SBP)

## - Initial Assessment and Diagnosis

- History
- Physical examination
- Abdominal ultrasound
- **Abdominal paracentesis**
- Ascetic fluid analysis including a wcc and differential, ascetic fluid total protein,
- serum-ascites albumin gradient
- Culture of ascetic fluid at bedside in blood culture bottles

# Deterioration of cirrhotic patient

- A frequent cause of sudden deterioration is the development of (SBP).

# Bacterial

- E coli is main bacteria in SBP

Not the only one

-

# Treatment SBP

- ▣ **Antibiotics** : cefotaxime , amoxicillin/clavulanic acid
- ▣ **IV albumin**
- ▣ **Avoid** therapeutic paracentesis

# THE KIDNEY IN CIRRHOSIS

## Abnormality

Sodium retention

Water retention

Renal vasoconstriction

## Clinical consequence

Ascites and edema

Dilutional hyponatremia

Hepatorenal syndrome

# Esophageal varices

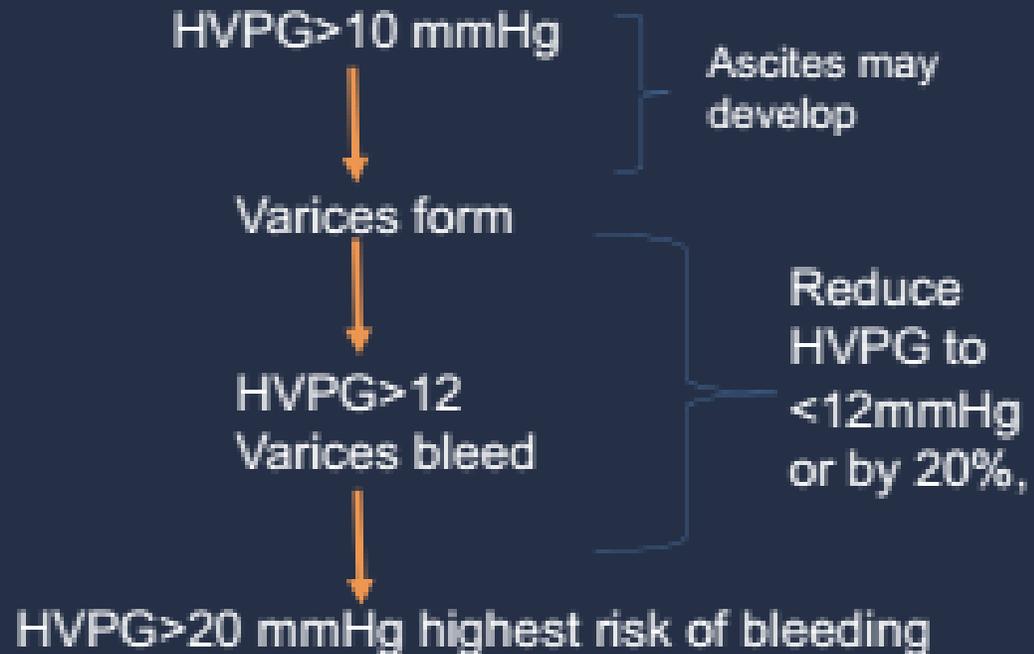
- ▣ While most patients with cirrhosis form varices
- ▣ **only 1/3 will bleed from them**



# Esophageal varices predicted first bleed

- 1-Child-Pugh class
- 2-the size of
- -presence of red color signs on, EV at endoscopy

## Hepatic venous pressure gradient in cirrhosis



# Management of acute variceal bleeding

- General supportive measures
  - -RBC transfusions if HG <8
  - -IV **octreotide** infusion is recommended on first suspicion of variceal bleeding
- -Prophylactic antibiotic
- -endotracheal intubation
- Ligation or Sclerotherapy
- Management after the acute bleed from EV.

## **(EVL) or (EVS)**

- **Both are equally effective in stopping bleeding**
- **complications after EVL (eg., bleeding from esophageal ulcers) are fewer than after EVS**

## Endoscopic Variceal Band Ligation

### Technique and follow-up

#### Technique

Start at GEJ



Apply suction  
1-2 seconds



Deploy band

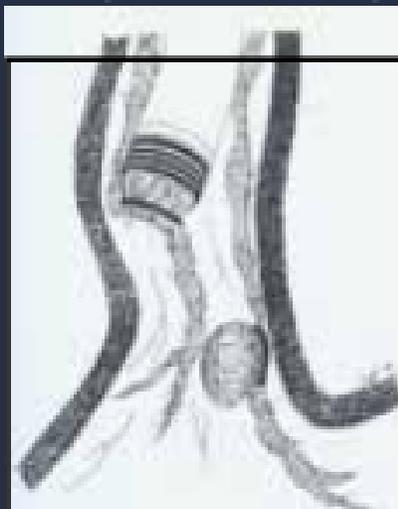


Continue suction  
1-2 seconds



Progress upward:

- helically
- 4-6 bands
- lower 5 cm



#### Follow-up

Re-band  
□ 2 weeks



Obliteration



Re-screen  
□ 3 months

# TIPS for variceal bleeding

- ▣ (1) failure of medical and endoscopic management in an acute bleed setting
- ▣ (2) recurrent EV bleeding despite NSBB and EVL with intent to obliterate.

## General Management of Acute Variceal Bleeding

| Recommended                               | Consider                |
|---|-------------------------|
| Early endoscopy<br>(within 12 hours)      | Platelets               |
| Transfuse to Hb 7-8 gm/dL                 | Early TIPS              |
| Prophylactic antibiotics<br>(ceftriaxone) | FFP; <i>NOT</i> rFVIIa  |
| Octreotide IV<br>72 hours                 | Lactulose               |
|   | Endotracheal intubation |

Adapted from: Bosch, et al. *Semin Liver Dis.* 2008; 28: 3.

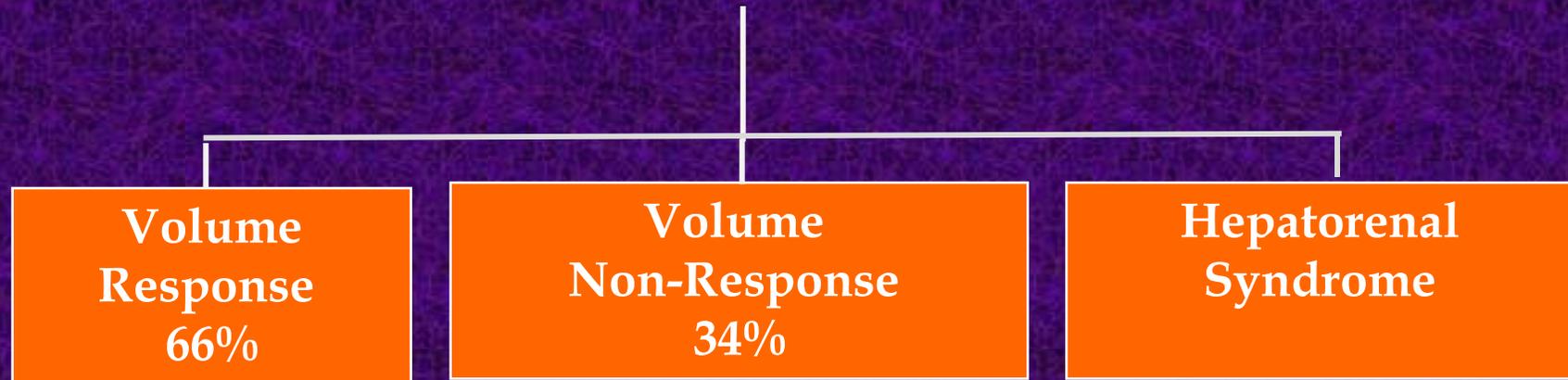
Garcia-Tsao, et al. *AASLD Practice Guidelines.* *Hepatology.* 2007; 46: 922.

# Gastric varices.

- GV are found less commonly than EV in patients with cirrhosis (20%).

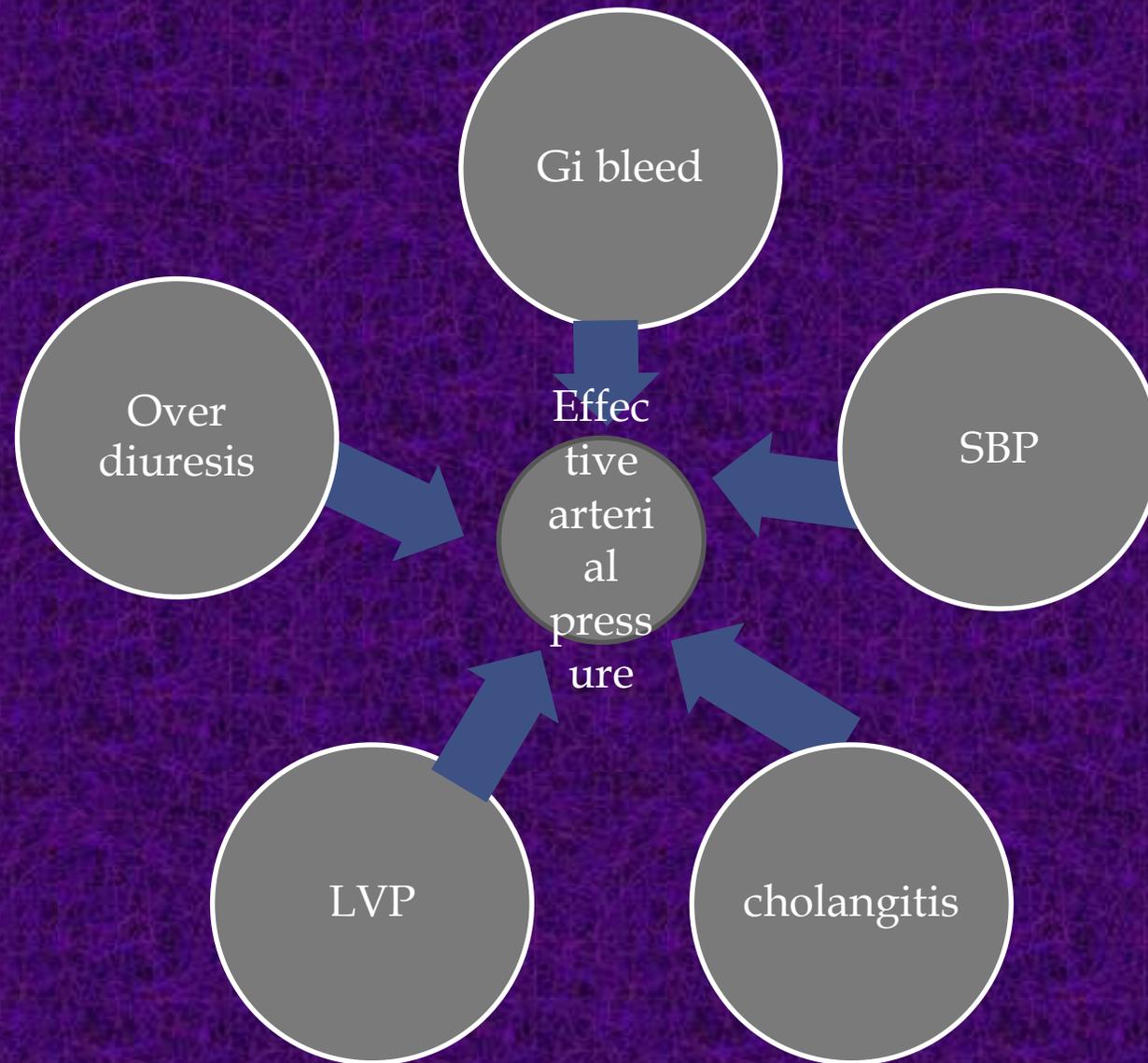
Such bleeds are clinically more dramatic than from EV (higher transfusion requirements, higher mortality).

# RENAL INJURY IN CIRRHOSIS



## Most common causes

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Sepsis                      | 1) NSAIDS                  |
| 2) GI hemorrhage               | 2) Contrast dye            |
| 3) Diarrhea                    | 3) Intrinsic renal disease |
| 4) Aggressive use of diuretics |                            |

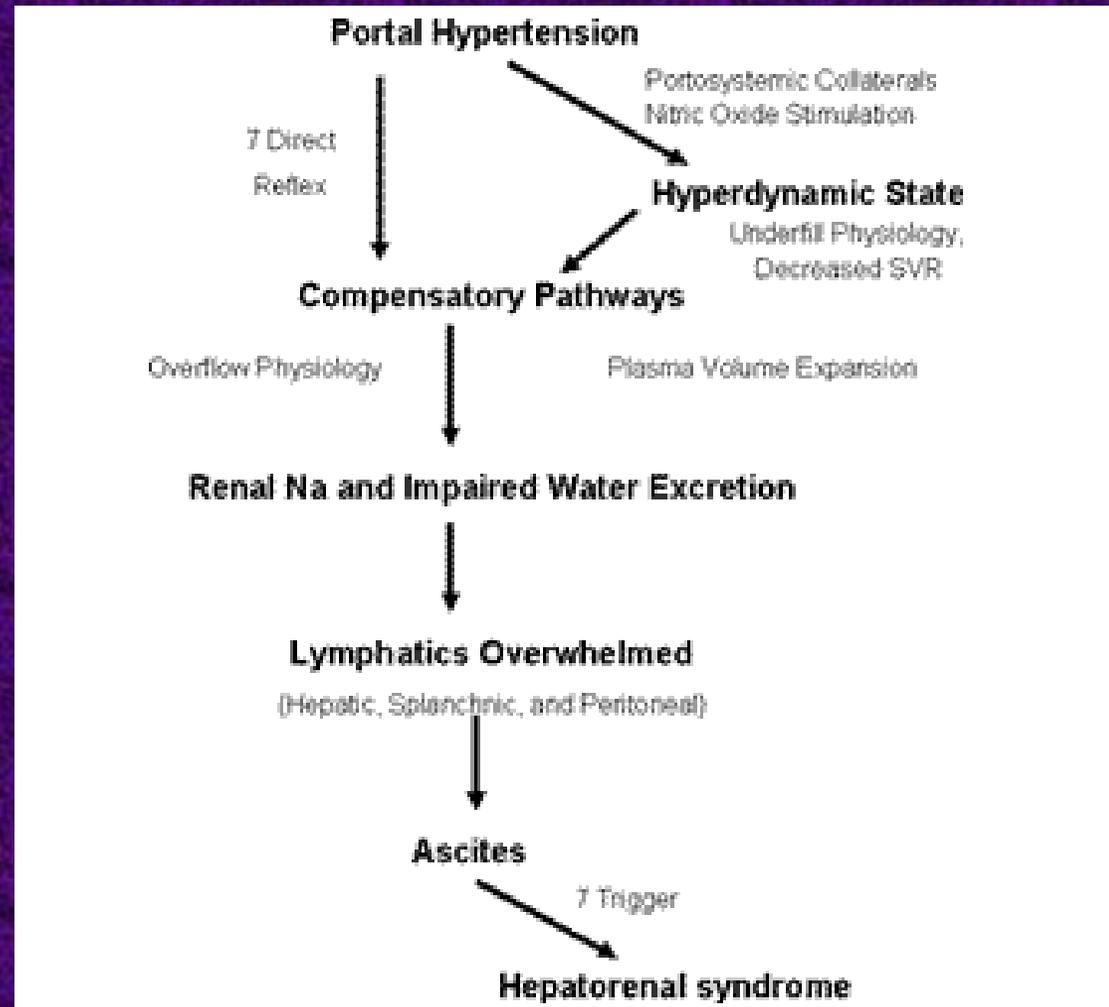


# Hepatorenal syndrome

- ▣ Low urine sodium in the absence of renal pathology
- ▣ Type 1 doubling of serum creatinine  $>2.5$  mg/dl  $<2$  weeks
- ▣ Median survival 2 weeks

# Hepatorenal syndrome

- ▣ Low urine sodium in the absence of renal pathology
- ▣ Type 2 doubling of serum creatinine  $>1.5$  mg/dl over time
- ▣ Median survival 6 months



## Hepatic Encephalopathy

### Precipitating Events

| Event                   | Mechanism                             |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Constipation            | ↑ gut ammonia production              |
| GI bleed                | -                                     |
| Porto-systemic shunting | ↓ neurotoxin clearance                |
| Fever, infection        | -                                     |
| Dehydration, azotemia   | ↓ renal excretion of ammonium         |
| Hypokalemia             | -                                     |
| Sedatives (BDZ)         | ↑ inhibitory neurotransmission (GABA) |

## Management of Hepatic Encephalopathy

### 1<sup>o</sup> Therapy

Remove Precipitant



Lactulose

(PO dose to achieve 2-3 soft stools/d;  
enema in comatose patients)



Antibiotics

-rifaximin

-(neomycin-no)

-(metronidazole-no)



Search for spontaneous  
porto-systemic shunts

### 2<sup>o</sup> Considerations

Correct hyponatremia



Dietary Modification

-fiber

-dairy/vegetable protein

-(protein restrict-no)



Raise serum K<sup>+</sup> to 5-5.5



Supplement Zinc

Probiotics?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME .

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