

Learner Handout: Role of ACPs in Immediate Post-Liver Transplant Care

Overview: The immediate post-operative period after a liver transplant (typically the first 72 hours) is critical. Advanced Care Providers (ACPs) play a central role in ensuring graft function, preventing complications, and promoting recovery through structured protocols and interdisciplinary care.

Key Responsibilities of ACPs

Area	Responsibilities
Monitoring	Continuous hemodynamic and ventilator monitoring, interpreting labs and Dopplers, trending LFTs
Medication Management	Initiating and adjusting immunosuppressants (e.g., Tacrolimus), monitoring for side effects, administering antimicrobials
Complication Recognition	Early detection of hepatic artery thrombosis, graft dysfunction, bleeding, infection
Communication	Daily rounds with surgeons, hepatologists, ICU team, and patient families; coordinating transitions of care
Education	Teaching families about signs of rejection/infection, discharge instructions, and medication adherence

Evidence-Based Protocols Commonly Used

- **Immunosuppression Protocols:** Start steroids + calcineurin inhibitors POD#0–1
- **Doppler Ultrasound:** Within 6–12h to confirm vascular flow
- **Infection Prophylaxis:** CMV, fungal, and bacterial prophylaxis tailored by risk
- **Early Extubation:** Fast-track protocols if hemodynamically stable

Recommended Reading

Patel YA, Berg CL. *Postoperative Management in Liver Transplantation: Role of the Multidisciplinary Team.*

Clin Liver Dis. 2017;21(2):365–382. DOI: 10.1016/j.cld.2016.12.005