

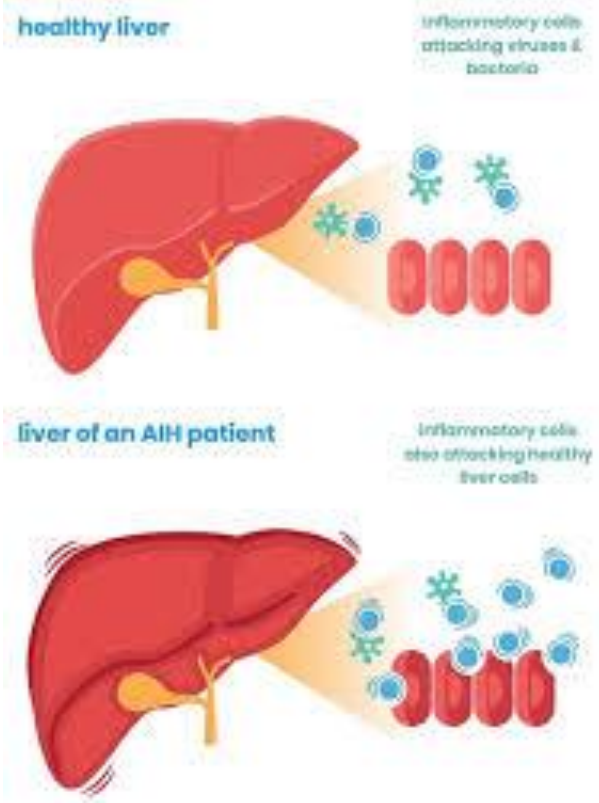
***Rebalanced hemostasis in liver
disease:
A misunderstood coagulopathy***

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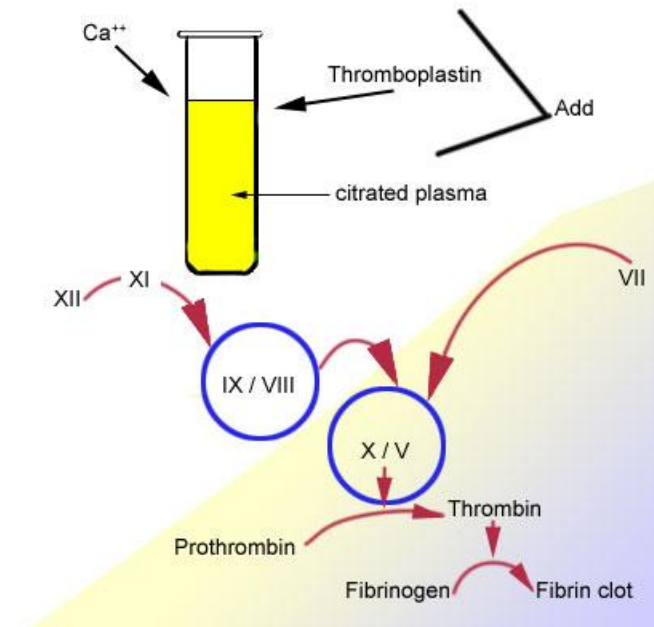
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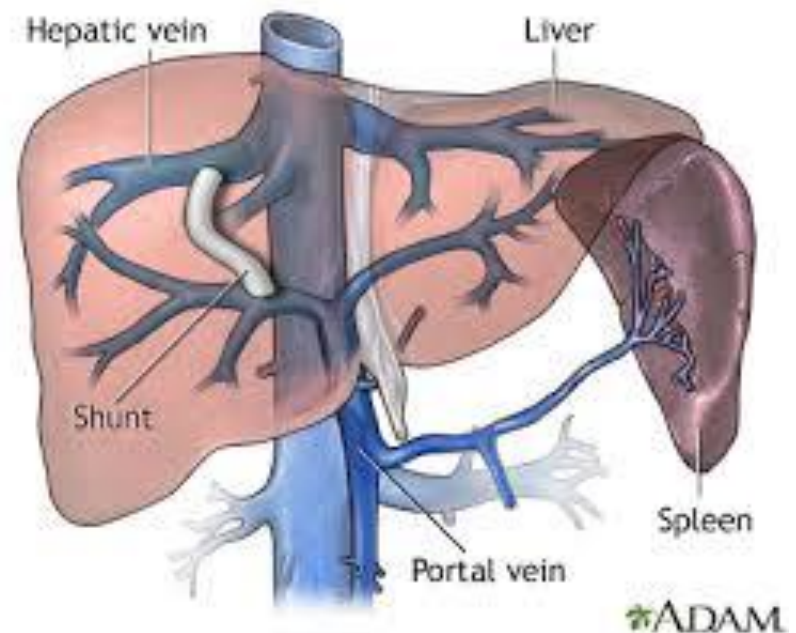
- A 37-year-old woman admitted with hepatic failure due to autoimmune hepatitis develops severe epistaxis and melena, accompanied by an acute worsening of anemia (hemoglobin dropped to 5.8 g/dL from 8.4 g/dL).
- A physical examination is remarkable for jaundice, scleral icterus with conjunctival pallor, ascites, and extensive ecchymoses at venipuncture sites



- A laboratory workup reveals a severely prolonged prothrombin time (PT) at 32 seconds, a mildly prolonged activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) at 42 seconds, marked thrombocytopenia (platelet count of $18 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$), and decreased fibrinogen at 126 mg/dL
- Transfusion of red blood cells and platelets is prescribed



- The hepatology team plans to perform a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt procedure but is concerned about the bleeding risk because of the International Normalized Ratio (INR) being reported as 5.0 and states that it should be <2.0 in order to perform the procedure



Rebalanced hemostasis

- i. **Primary hemostasis** (platelet adhesion and activation)
 - ii. **Coagulation** (generation and crosslinking of fibrin)
 - iii. **Fibrinolysis** (clot dissolution)
- Not "auto-anticoagulated," : standard coagulation testing (PT/PTT/INR/ elevated D-dimer) does not assess prothrombotic and fibrinolytic changes

Primary Hemostasis

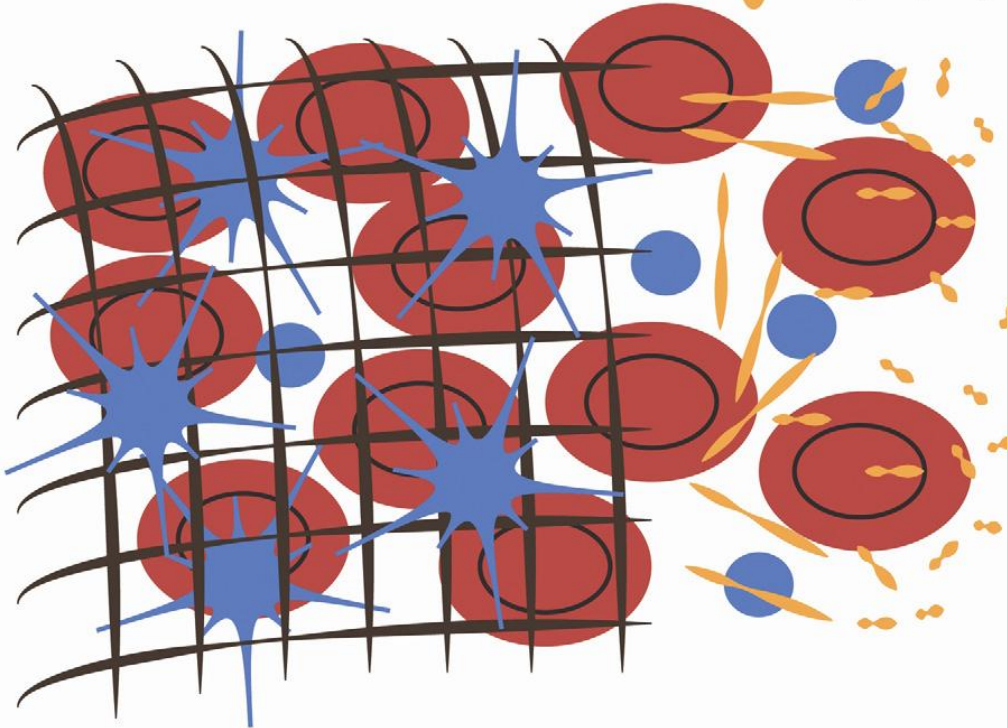
Activated platelets and thrombin burst. Measured by platelet count, vWF, platelet function analysis, and bleeding time.

Coagulation: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Pathways

Builds the fibrin mesh.
Measured by PT/INR,
aPTT and specific factor
levels.

Fibrinolysis

Controls propagation
of the fibrin mesh and
dissolves clot when
hemostasis is achieved.
Measured by fibrinogen
level, protein C and S
levels, antithrombin III
level, euglobulin lysis
time, and anticoagulant
levels (PAI-1, TAFI).



Estimated Thrombin Potential

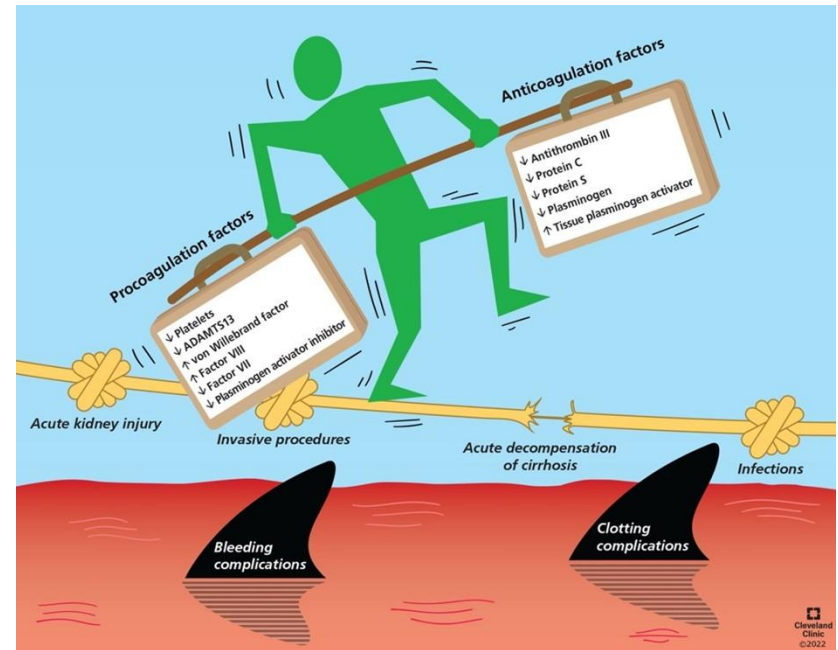
Measure of ability to generate fibrin mesh. Dependent on platelet levels, platelet function, procoagulant levels, and antithrombin/protein C activity.

Whole Blood Clotting Assays

Thromboelastography, ROTEM, sonorheometry. Assessment of overall hemostasis activity including primary hemostasis, coagulation, and fibrinolysis.

Impaired hemostasis

- i. Fibrinogen (factor I), thrombin (factor II), and upstream factors V, VII, IX, X, and XI
- ii. Thrombocytopenia and platelet dysfunction
- iii. Increased fibrinolysis/ accelerated intravascular coagulation and fibrinolysis(AICF)
- iv. Impaired clearing coagulation factors and products of fibrinolysis



Prothrombotic changes

- Endogenous inhibitors of coagulation (eg, protein S, protein C, antithrombin and fibrinolytic factors, and it clears von Willebrand factor (VWF)

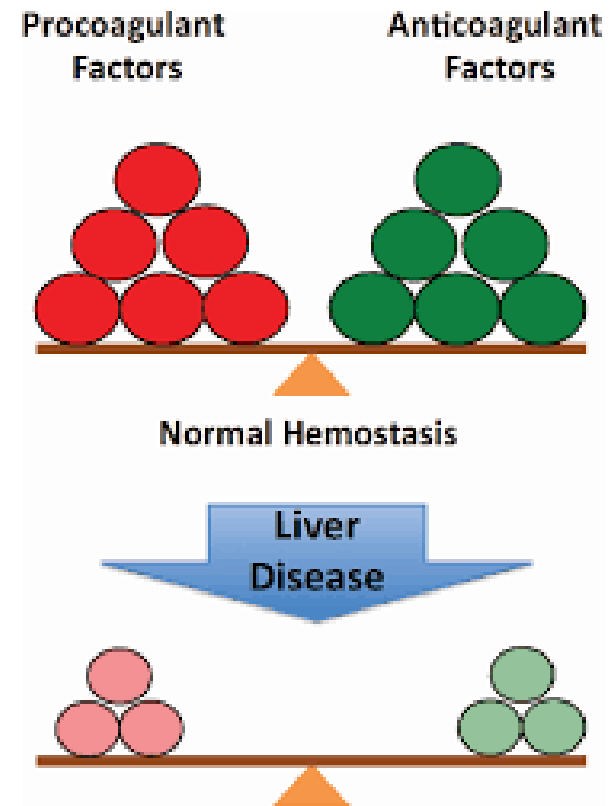
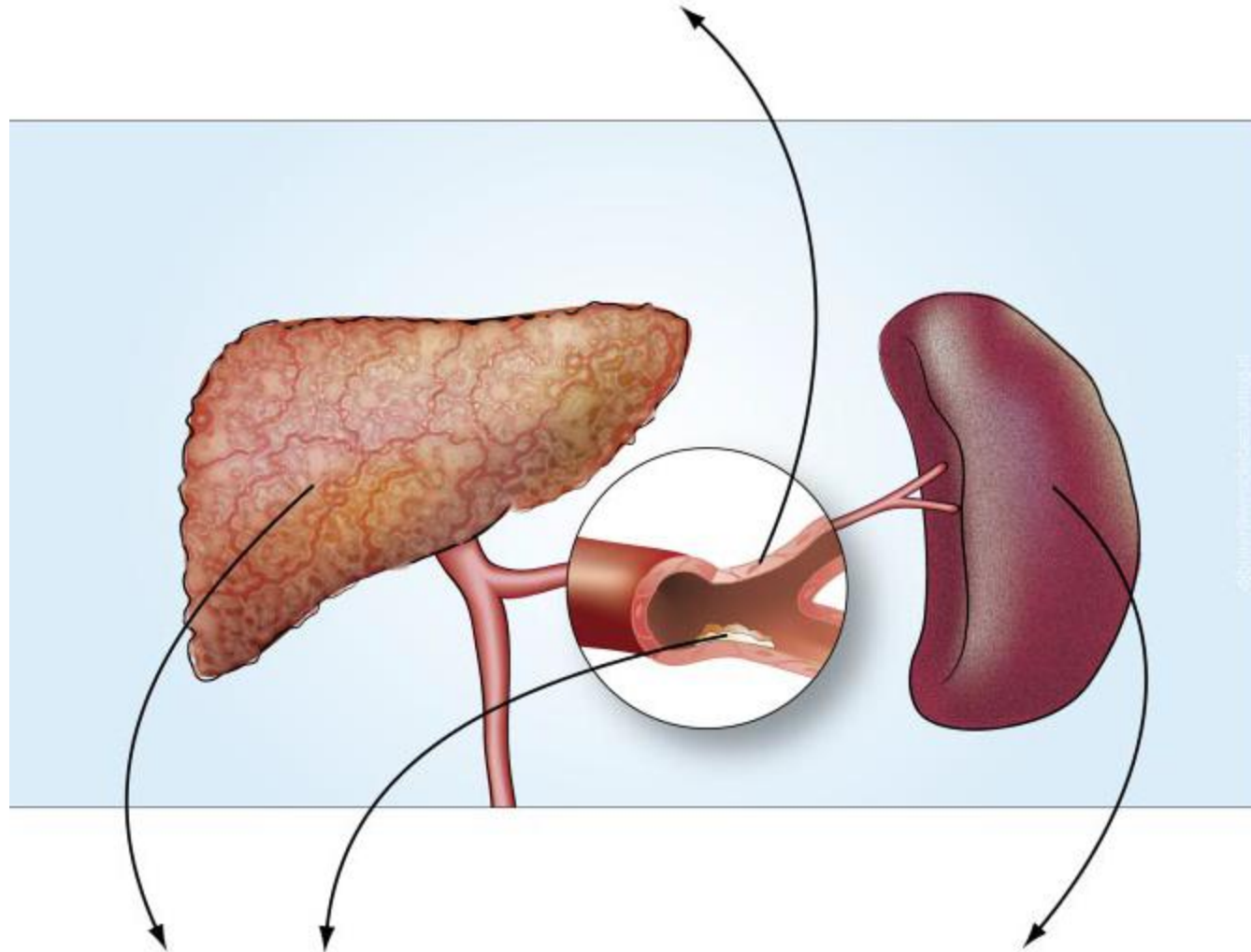


Figure 1. The normal balance of hemostasis and rebalanced

- Elevated levels of VWF (and factor VIII)
- Elevated levels of tPA, PAI-1, nitric oxide and prostacyclin



Low levels of coagulation factors and inhibitors
 Low levels of plasminogen and inhibitors of fibrinolysis
 Decreased levels of ADAMTS13
 Dysfibrinogenemia
 Thrombocytopenia and platelet function defects

- Thrombocytopenia and platelet function defects

Accurate testing of hemostasis

- Thromboelastography (TEG) / ROTEM
- Asymptomatic laboratory changes (eg, elevations in the PT/INR or aPTT, decreases in the platelet count)

General approach to invasive procedures

- Little evidence to support the practice of administering FFP to "correct" the PT/INR
- Octreotide 50 mcg and vit K 10 mg IV /stat
- Patients assigned to the TEG arm received FFP if the reaction time (r) was >40 minutes (normal range for this study, 12 to 26 minutes) and platelets if the maximum amplitude (MA) was <30 mm
- FFP for INR >2 and platelets for a count <50,000/microL

تقديم به شما

