gutflix
GI learning, personalised

Summary

A young female with acute liver failure: Clinical and biochemical decline despite management

Chiara Becchetti

Postgraduate Teaching Programme Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

Surgery | Hepatobiliary

October 17, 2026

A 21-year-old woman with acute liver failure and rash underwent successful urgent liver transplantation after initial improvement with plasma exchange was followed by clinical deterioration, with explant histology supporting autoimmune hepatitis.

KEY POINTS

- The patient presented with dysarthria, mental confusion, and vesicular-pustular skin lesions, meeting Clichy and King's College criteria with a MELD score of 33 and factor V of 18.
- Extensive workup was negative for hepatotropic viruses, drugs, toxins, and Wilson disease; second-level testing revealed strongly positive SLA/LP autoantibody and liver biopsy showed acute hepatitis with plasma cell infiltration.
- Plasma exchange as a bridge to transplant initially improved liver function, coagulation, and neurological status, allowing temporary delisting, but cytopenia developed.
- Methylprednisolone 60 mg IV daily improved cytopenia but transaminases remained unchanged, and the patient deteriorated to grade 3 hepatic encephalopathy 13 days after referral with liver shrinkage and new ascites on imaging.
- The patient underwent urgent liver transplantation with a DCD donor on the same day as relisting, with unremarkable postoperative course and extubation on day one.
- Explant histology showed extensive multiacinar confluent hepatic necrosis without regeneration, supporting the diagnosis of autoimmune hepatitis.

VIEW THIS CONTENT ON GUTFLIX

https://gutflix.eu/search/d/d718e80e-d14f-11f1-bc8d-daaa6dbee0a2

AI-generated summary

This summary was generated by an AI large language model based on the content transcript. It is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for clinical judgment. Always rely on your professional expertise and the full clinical context when making clinical decisions.