gutflix
GI learning, personalised

Summary

Acute-on-chronic liver failure: Navigating through organ failures

Debbie Shawcross

Postgraduate Teaching Programme Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

Digestive Oncology | Radiology & Imaging | Small Intestine & Nutrition | Hepatobiliary

October 18, 2026

Acute on chronic liver failure (ACLF) is a life-threatening syndrome characterised by organ failures driven by intense systemic inflammation, with early recognition and management in a critical window essential to prevent progression and mortality exceeding 75% in severe cases.

KEY POINTS

- ACLF is distinguished from uncomplicated decompensation by one or more organ failures with high short-term mortality; the speaker described three cardinal organ failures as acute kidney injury, circulatory collapse, and severe hepatic encephalopathy.
- The speaker reported that 96% of patients progressing to ACLF in the Predict study had proven bacterial infection as the precipitant, and early appropriate antibiotics reduce progression though without proven mortality benefit.
- The speaker stated there is a golden window after acute insult when hepatic reserve can be preserved or restored, requiring quick intervention and dynamic reassessment of organ failures to guide escalation.
- Most ACLF patients are fluid depleted rather than overloaded, and the speaker taught that fluid resuscitation, along with vasopressors for circulatory failure and renal replacement therapy when needed, are key interventions in high-dependency settings.
- The speaker reported a recent global study showing one-year survival up to 85% in patients with ACLF grade 2 or 3 who were transplanted versus most untransplanted patients not surviving, emphasising transplant consideration in eligible patients.
- The speaker stated that extracorporeal liver devices, G-CSF, rifaximin, and steroids have no benefit in ACLF and should not be prescribed; plasma exchange may bridge to transplant but is not a long-term solution.

VIEW THIS CONTENT ON GUTFLIX

https://gutflix.eu/search/d/e3c29ed8-d14f-11f1-b822-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.