

## **Drug induced hepatotoxicity**

Drug overdose may cause liver failure. Acute liver failure had been found first in Hong Kong in 2000 among children who took excessive dosage of flu pills (Paracetamol) as well as cod liver oil. Immediate liver transplant were required to save the kid's lives.

Paracetamol overdose can cause significant injury to the liver. Without timely treatment, the overdose of paracetamol can lead to liver failure and death within days. Adults having a daily dosage of more than 20 tablets of 500mg Paracetamol may develop acute liver failure. Maximum daily Paracetamol dosage varies according to age. Children may have a much severe impact after Paracetamol overdose, as their liver metabolism are different from adults, resulting in acute liver failure.

Drugs that may harm the liver include anaesthetics, painkillers, antibiotics and herbal medicine. Drugs for the treatment of epilepsy, tuberculosis cancer, diabetes mellitus may also cause liver dysfunction. Symptoms of acute liver failure include loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, ascites, bruising and low blood glucose level. Patients might well fall into coma and risk death. Immediate liver transplant is needed.