

When life gives you lemons, we give you a new liver

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Acute fatty liver of pregnancy (AFLP) is a rare condition with 1 in 13,000 deliveries but potentially life-threatening condition that can occur during the third trimester or postpartum period. It can cause hepatic failure and encephalopathy, potentially leading to death for both mother and fetus if the diagnosis is delayed. Patients with severe liver dysfunction may require immediate listing for transplantation if they do not show signs of recovery post-delivery. There is no specific "window period" universally agreed upon for AFLP diagnosis to liver transplantation, thus decision for transplantation is typically made on a case-by-case basis. Living donor liver transplantation (LDLT) versus cadaveric, both methods have their risk and benefits. LDLT generally offers better survival rates and reduced inflammation, making it a preferable option when feasible. However, cadaveric liver transplantation remains a vital option due to the limited availability of living donors. **Case Description:** We report a case of a 24-year-old primigravida at 37 weeks who presented with jaundice, vomiting and coagulopathy. Urgent ultrasound HBS confirmed the diagnosis of fatty liver. However, the maternal condition was critical with acute fulminant liver failure and hepatorenal syndrome, needing blood products transfusion. Fetus was also affected with fetal growth restriction. She needed an ICU care and stabilisation involving a multidisciplinary team prior to caesarean section. Postoperatively, her condition remained critically ill and did not respond to aggressive treatment of fulminant liver failure. The decision for liver transplantation was made within 48 hours to the Hepatobiliary Centre. Despite the critical nature of her condition, the patient underwent successful cadaveric liver transplantation and experienced a remarkable recovery. **Discussion:** This case highlights the need for early recognition, aggressive management of AFLP, and the potential life-saving role of liver transplantation in selected cases. The successful outcome underscores the need for multidisciplinary team involvement and prompt intervention to improve maternal and fetal outcomes.