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anatomy of the liver the liver is located in the upper right hand portion of the abdominal cavity beneath the diaphragm and on top of the stomach right kidney and intestines shaped like a cone the liver is a dark reddish brown organ that weighs about 3 pounds liver the liver is a major metabolic organ only found in vertebrate animals which performs many essential biological functions such as detoxification of the organism and the synthesis of proteins and biochemicals necessary for digestion and growth cirrhosis of the liver is permanent scarring that damages your liver and interferes with its functioning it can lead to liver failure cirrhosis is the result of persistent liver damage over many years alcohol and drugs viruses and metabolic factors are the most common causes learn about liver disease a condition that affects the organ that helps digest food rid the body of waste and keep the blood flowing well find out the common causes symptoms risk factors and how to prevent liver problems the liver is a large organ in the abdomen that performs many important bodily functions including blood filtering it is also considered a gland because it makes chemicals the body needs certain diseases and lifestyles can damage the liver but there are many ways to protect this vital organ what is the liver the liver is a large organ found in the upper right quadrant of the abdomen it is a multifunctional accessory organ of the gastrointestinal tract and performs several essential functions such as detoxification protein synthesis bile production and nutrient storage to name only a few key facts the liver filters all of the blood in the body and breaks down poisonous substances such as alcohol and drugs the liver also produces bile a fluid that helps digest fats and carry away waste the liver consists of four lobes which are each made up of eight sections and thousands of lobules or small lobes functions of the liver structure functions regeneration diseases health summary the liver is the largest solid organ in the body it carries out over 500 tasks and plays an essential role in digestion the roles structure diagram purpose regeneration diseases symptoms keep liver healthy your liver is your body s largest solid organ it is vital to the body s metabolic functions and immune your liver is your body s largest solid organ on average it weighs around 3 pounds in adulthood and is roughly the size of a football this organ is vital to the body s metabolic the liver secretes bile a digestive fluid metabolizes proteins carbohydrates and fats stores glycogen vitamins and other substances synthesizes blood clotting factors removes wastes and toxic matter from the blood regulates blood volume and destroys old red blood cells human liver anterior and posterior views of the liver a book mayo clinic on digestive health symptoms the liver enlarge image cirrhosis often has no symptoms until liver damage is severe when symptoms do occur they may include fatigue easily bleeding or bruising loss of appetite nausea swelling in the legs feet or ankles called edema weight loss itchy skin overview what is liver disease your liver is a large and powerful organ that performs hundreds of essential functions in your body one of its most important functions is filtering toxins from your blood while your liver is well equipped for this job its role as a filter makes it vulnerable to the toxins it processes the liver has a lot of vital tasks including ridding the body of toxins learn about problems that can affect the liver and how to avoid them the liver is the largest organ in your body it weighs about 3 pounds and is about the size of a football it performs many functions essential for good health and a long life what the liver does your liver works around the clock to keep you healthy among its most important jobs are producing important substances the liver is a critical organ in the human body that is responsible for an array of functions that help support metabolism immunity digestion detoxification vitamin storage among other functions it comprises around 2 of an adult s body weight conditions scans and tests the liver is located in the upper right of the abdomen this organ can be found below the rib cage and above the stomach kidney and intestines the liver is located in the same place for people of any sex however the organ may be heavier and larger in males what is cirrhosis cirrhosis is a condition in which scar tissue gradually replaces your healthy liver cells it usually happens over a long period often due to infection the liver is a peritoneal organ positioned in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen it is the largest visceral structure in the abdominal cavity and the largest gland in the human body an accessory digestion gland the liver performs a wide range of functions such as synthesis of bile glycogen storage and clotting factor production cirrhosis care at mayo clinic ct scan liver biopsy show more related information 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