

Introduction

Hepatic encephalopathy is defined as a spectrum of neuropsychiatric abnormalities in patients with liver dysfunction, after exclusion of brain disease.

Signs of Hepatic Encephalopathy

- Flapping tremor or asterixis (early stages)
- Stupor (late stage)
- Coma (late stage)

Symptoms of Hepatic Encephalopathy

The following and should be documented:

- Decreased awareness of environment
- Sleep disturbance
- Depression
- Emotional lability
- Somnolence
- Slurred speech
- Obtundation

References

Warrell DA, Cox TA, Firth JD & Benz EJ, *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 4th ED.* Oxford University Press, UK 2003.

