NEW-BORN BILIARY ATRESIA

Biliary Atresia (BA) is a serious liver disorder in young infants in which bile ducts are absent or obstructed resulting in a compromised and diseased liver.

- There are 3-5 babies with BA born in Ireland annually.
- These cases are time sensitive.
- Early diagnosis is pivotal as the biliary drainage operation (Kasai) is less successful when undertaken after 60 days old.
- Symptoms of BA include:
- Prolonged Jaundice.
- Pale or clay-coloured (acholic) stools, an indication that very little or no bile (which gives bowel movements their normal colour) is reaching the intestine.





FLOW CHART FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED BILIARY ATRESIA

Jaundice >2 weeks

• Obtain a 'split bilirubin' blood test (Total bilirubin and conjugated bilirubin fraction)

Refer to hospital of birth 'baby clinic' OPD and/or local Paediatric services to have bloods drawn at next available appointment if unable to carry out same in the GP practice.

Make a note of *abnormal stool colour

Total bilirubin of <250 µmol/l and a conjugated bilirubin of <20 µmol/l

No further action required. For normal f/up at 6 weeks.

Conjugated bilirubin is >20% of the total bilirubin

Liaise with consultant on-call team at Paediatric GI unit at the CHI Crumlin. Telephone via switch on (01) 409 6100 Total bilirubin
>250 µmol/l
and conjugated
<20 µmol/l
consider
prolonged
jaundice work up
as per local
guidelines