

Table 1. A Grading System for Hepatic Encephalopathy.*

Grade	Level Of Consciousness	Personality and Intellect	Neurologic Sign	Electroencephalographic Abnormalities
0	Normal	Normal	None	None
Subclinical	Normal	Normal	Abnormalities only on psychometric analysis	None
1	Inverted sleep pattern, restlessness	Forgetfulness, mild confusion, agitation, irritability	Tremor, apraxia, incoordination, impaired hand writing	Triphasic waves (5 cycles/sec)
2	Lethargy, slow responses	Disorientation as regards time, amnesia, decreased inhibitions, inappropriate behavior	Asterixis, dysarthria, ataxia hypoactive reflexes	Triphasic waves (5 cycles/sec)
3	Somnolence but rousability, confusion	Disorientation as regards place, aggressive behavior	Asterixis, hyperactive reflexes, Babinski signs, muscle rigidity	Triphasic waves (5 cycles/sec)
4	Coma	None	Decerebration	Delta activity

* The system is based on clinical and electroencephalographic features suggested by Gitlin.

Table 2. Differential Diagnosis of Hepatic Encephalopathy.*

Disorder	Diagnostic Test
Metabolic encephalopathies Hypoglycemia † Electrolyte imbalance † Hypoxia † Carbon dioxide narcosis Azotemia † Ketoacidosis	Blood chemical analysis
Toxic encephalopathies Alcohol † Acute intoxication Withdrawal syndrome Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome Psychoactive drugs Salicylates Heavy metals	Measurement of blood alcohol level, erythrocyte transketolase activity, therapeutic response to thiamine, toxicologic screening
Intracranial lesions Subarachnoid, subdural, or intracerebral hemorrhage † Cerebral infarction Cerebral tumor Cerebral abscess Meningitis Encephalitis Epilepsy or postseizure encephalopathy	Computed tomography, lumbar puncture, arteriography, electroencephalography, virologic testing
Neuropsychiatric disorders	Tests for organic brain syndromes

* Data are adapted from Ferrend

† This diagnosis is especially pertinent to patients with liver disease

Dikutip dari : Riordan SM., Williams R.. Treatment of Hepatic Encephalopathy. N.Engl.J.Med 1997;337:473-9