



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

Liver Abscess

Kevin Harrell, MD

Liver abscess

Highlights:

- Most commonly diagnosed on ultrasound or CT scan.
- Consider etiology: Pyogenic, parasitic (amebic), fungal, or mixed.
- First line treatment is percutaneous drainage with aspiration or drain placement.
- Rare surgical management may be indicated to treat an underlying condition, failed percutaneous drainage, or multiloculated abscesses.
- Surgical techniques include open or laparoscopic approaches, abscess fenestration, and liver resection.