



5. PORTO-SYSTEMIC VENOUS SHUNTS

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Introduction. Portosystemic shunts are abnormal vessels that allow portal blood to enter the systemic circulation without passing through the liver. They can be extrahepatic, where the vascular abnormalities are outside the liver, or intrahepatic, where they are within the liver parenchyma.

Aim of study. To elucidate the current level of science on the impact of studying portosystemic shunts.

Methods and materials. A bibliographic study of scientific literature specialized at portosystemic venous shunts.

Results. The portal venous system is subject to various congenital and acquired disorders, the most important of which are portal venous obstruction/thrombosis and portal hypertension. Anatomical variants and congenital anomalies of the portal venous system are particularly important to identify in the context of considering liver transplantation or resection and interventional procedures such as transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt, portal vein embolization, and hemodialysis.

Conclusion. A correct understanding of the anatomy of the portal venous system is essential for effective diagnosis, management and treatment planning of these disorders. Because of the liver's crucial role in metabolism, a liver shunt can cause serious health problems.