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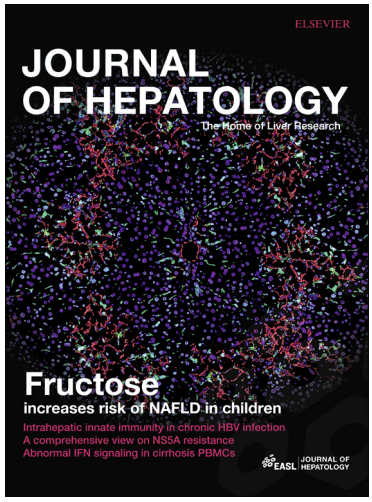

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Acid-base disorders in liver disease

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To the Editor

We read with great interest the article by Scheiner Bernhard et al. focusing on the topic of acid-base disorders in patients with advanced liver disease [1].

Blood gas analysis is a widely used monitoring tool in the management of critically ill patients in different acute and chronic diseases and allows, through the correct interpretation of few interrelated variables, a deep understanding of respiratory, metabolic and hemodynamic alterations. Therefore, blood gas analysis is nowadays considered crucial to steer the diagnosis, guide the treatment and monitor its effectiveness in the critical care setting. In the review, the authors extensively discuss the pathophysiological concepts of acid-base disorders, the role of the liver in the maintenance of acid-base homeostasis, as well as the effects of acute and chronic liver disease on the acid-base derangements. Therefore, in the clinical practice, clinicians managing patients with acute or chronic liver failure should be aware about the existence of a lung-kidney-liver cross-talk.

We believe that in the complex scenario of critical illnesses, the analysis of acid-base equilibrium cannot be fully interpreted if the respiratory gas exchange is not fully addressed.