

LFT's

Understanding Labs – pay a lot of attention to labs. You should be able to interpret labs. Today we worked with a patient who had LFT's.

- LFT's – detect damage; not function
 - AST (a stupid test): found in many parts of the body (hepatocyte, muscle, heart) thus not specific. Ratio of AST: ALT may help identify cirrhosis.
 - ALT (a liver test): specific to hepatocyte
 - GGT specific to biliary system
 - Alk phos: biliary or bone
 - Bilirubin: biliary system
 - Indirect = unconjugated
 - Direct = conjugated
- Functional tests
 - PT/PTT
 - TP/albumin/pre-albumin
 - Vitamin D hydroxylated in liver
 - NH_4 – elevated in liver failure