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
  - NH₄ – elevated in liver failure