

# I can tell you what rejection is and what the symptoms are.

The body keeps you healthy with a defense system that destroys foreign proteins, like viruses and bacteria. This system would attack the new liver like it was an invader. Rejection happens when your child's immune system tries to destroy the new liver. If we notice liver rejection when it first begins, we can treat it right away. Children rarely lose liver function and need another transplant.

The results of blood tests will tell us if your child is starting to reject the liver. Rejection doesn't always cause symptoms you can notice.

## **How will the doctor know if my child is rejecting the liver?**

When the body attacks the liver, it is called a rejection episode. Rejection can occur at any time after transplant, but it is very common in the first three months after transplant.

Your child will have blood tests to check liver function. If the tests results become abnormal, we will give your child an abdominal ultrasound. This will let us see if the blood is flowing well to and from the liver, and if the bile ducts are working well.

If the ultrasound shows no problems, but the liver function blood tests are still not normal, your child will need a liver biopsy. If the biopsy shows your child is rejecting the liver, treatment will be needed.

At first, rejection is treated with higher doses of steroids. Blood will be tested every day. If the liver tests do not improve, the child may need another liver biopsy and stronger medicine. This will usually treat the problem, but sometimes, not often, the child may need another liver transplant.

#### Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.