1/27/2020
A 29-year-old woman is brought to the ER with abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. She acknowledges taking an unknown quantity of acetaminophen approximately 12 hours to admission. Which of the following implies the worst prognosis?

A. ALT 8,000
B. Arterial pH 7.22
C. INR 3.0
D. Creatinine 2.3
E. Grade 2 hepatic encephalopathy

Answer: B

One of the most common forms of acute liver failure is acetaminophen-induced liver injury. The King’s College criteria for acute liver failure (ALF) identify patients at high risk of mortality which require urgent evaluation for liver transplant. For acetaminophen-induced ALF those two broad criteria include (1) Arterial pH less than 7.30 irrespective of degree of encephalopathy; or (20) Grade 3-4 encephalopathy with BOTH a prothrombin time (PT) of greater than 100 seconds and a serum creatinine greater than 3.4 mg/dL.