

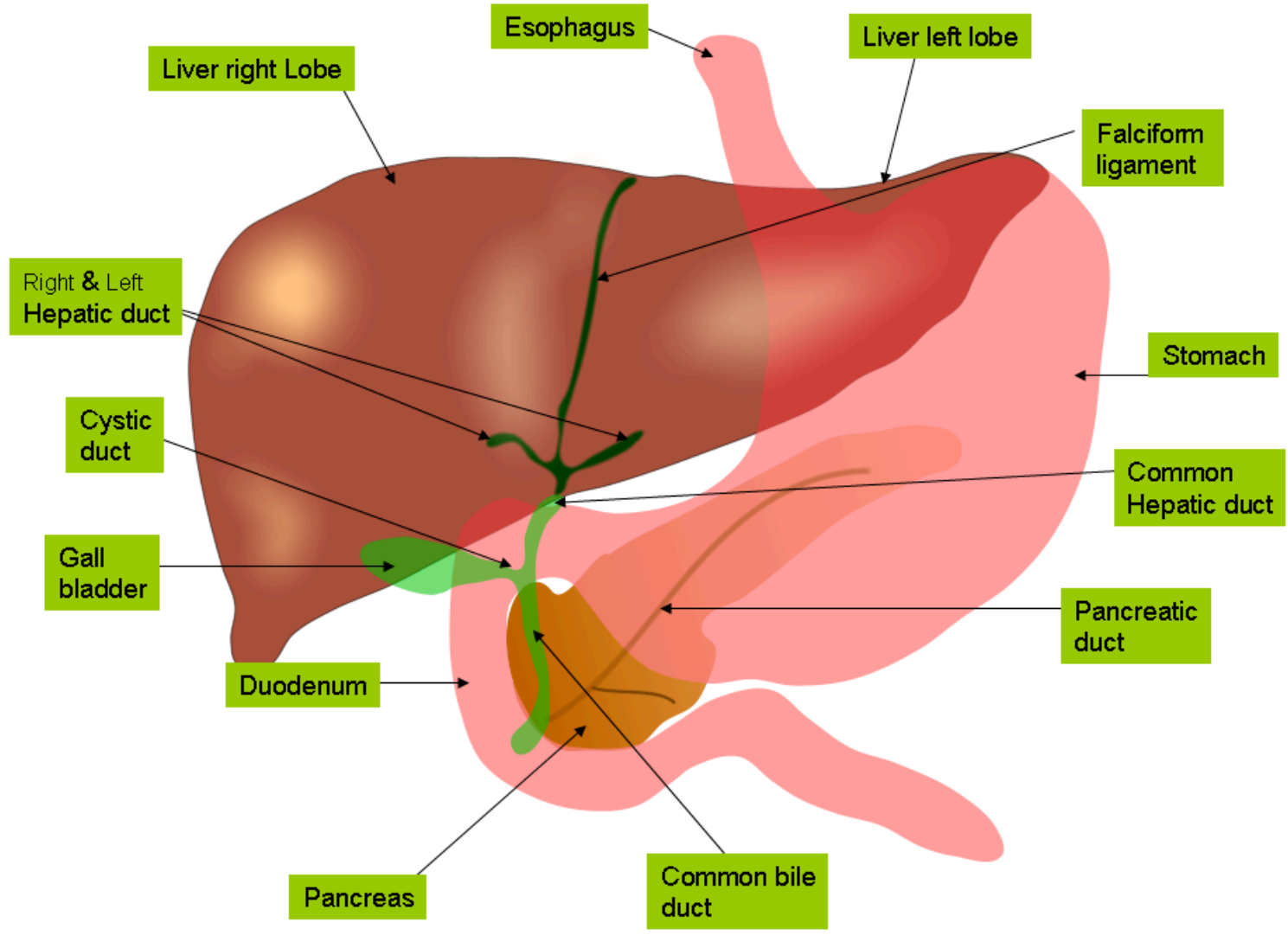


Understanding PSC Medications

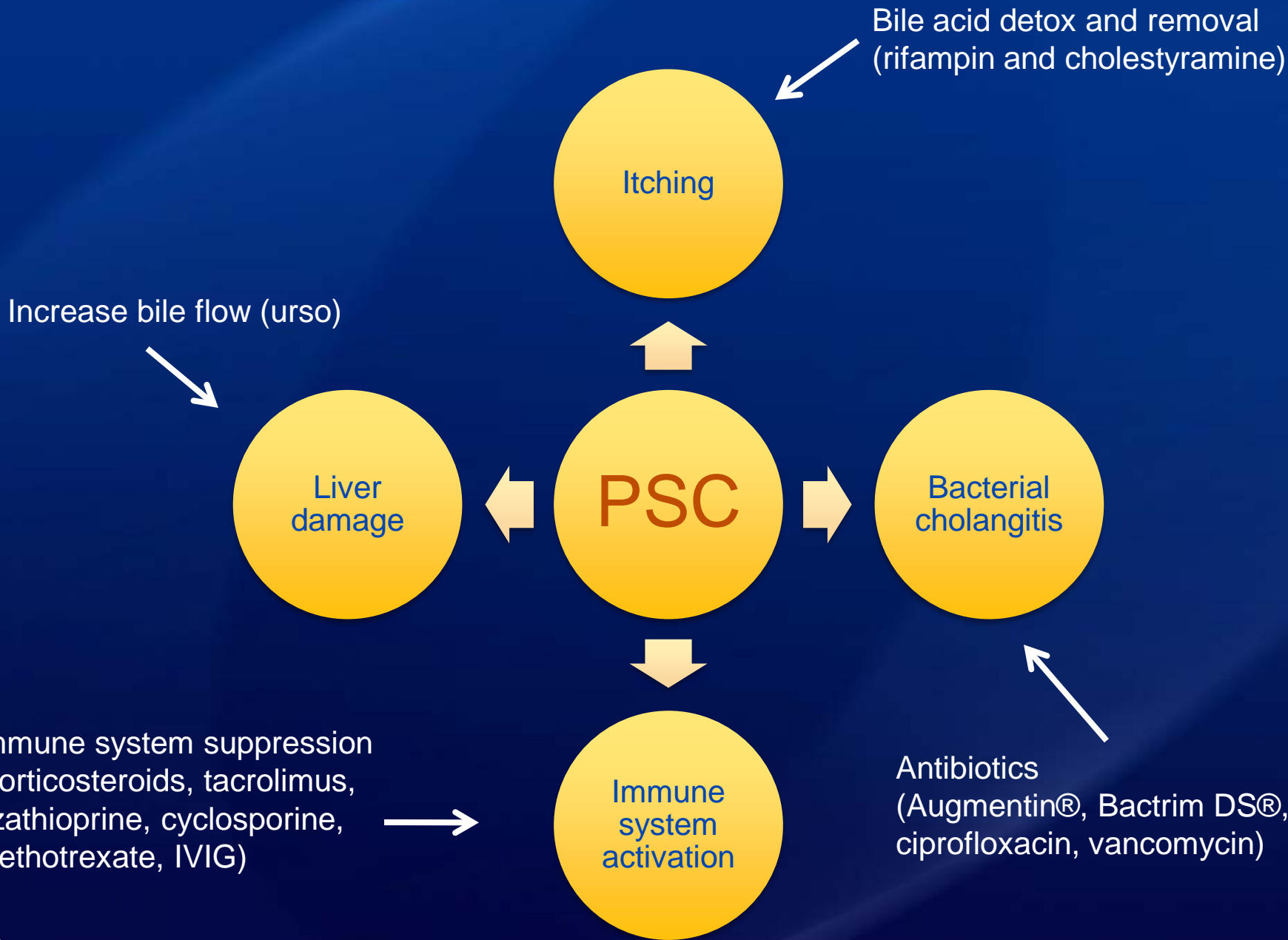
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Today's Road Map

- Common Medications
- Drug Interactions
- Side Effects
- Alternative Therapies



Courtesy JK Punnoose http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Anatomy_of_liver_and_gall_bladder.png



Stimulate Bile Flow

- Ursodeoxycholic acid (Actigall®, Urso®, Urso 250®, Urso Forte®)
- Increases bile flow from the liver
- Protects liver from toxic bile acids
- Take with food & avoid aluminum-based antacids
- Side effects: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, fever

Bile Acid Removal

- Cholestyramine (Questran®, Questran Lite®, Prevalite®)
- Binds bile acids for removal from the body to reduce itching (pruritis)
- Separate 1 hour before or 4-6 hours after other medications
- Side effects: abdominal discomfort, flatulence, nausea, vomiting

Bile Acid Processing & Removal

- Rifampin (Rifadin®)
- Stimulates bile acid transport and processing which may help reduce itching
- Causes many drug interactions, be sure to talk about your medications with your pharmacist or health care provider
- Side effects: red-orange urine, stool, saliva, sweat, and tears

Antibiotics

- Used to treat bacterial infections of the bile ducts (bacterial cholangitis)
- Chills and fever: seek medical attention immediately
- Some antibiotics include
 - Augmentin®, Bactrim DS®, Cipro®, vancomycin
- Take all prescribed antibiotics as directed

Immune System Cool Down

- Immune system helps us fight infections but sometimes it fights against us
- Some medications include
 - Corticosteroids (Prednisone®), azathioprine, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, methotrexate, IVIG
- Many require lab monitoring by health care providers
- Take as directed

Drug Interactions

- Can occur with 2 or more medications
- Keep a list of medications and update often
- Review list with pharmacist or health care provider often
- Try to fill all medications at one location
- Contact your pharmacist for questions

Side Effects

- Unexpected effects from medications
- Read patient education materials provided by pharmacy for possible effects
- May need to contact health care provider for a different dose or medication
- Pharmacists can help answer questions

Alternative Therapies

- Also known as complementary or alternative medicines
- Example
 - Echinacea sp. (purple coneflower)



Alternative Therapies

- Due to broad and often unpredictable effects of these therapies, their use is not recommended
- Ask your pharmacist before taking any new therapy that has not been reviewed and prescribed by your health care provider

Questions?



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