

	PRIMARY BILIARY CHOLANGITIS (PBC)	
	<h1>Seeing a new Physician</h1>	
Canadian PBC Society	PBC FACT SHEET	(09/02/16)

You may be the first PBC patient your specialist or new primary care doctor has seen. Provide this summary of the common symptoms/related disorders with which he/she may be more familiar.

PBC – Primary Biliary Cholangitis (formerly called *Primary Biliary Cirrhosis*) is

- a slow, progressive, chronic, rare liver disease
- characterized by the inflammation and destruction of the small bile ducts
- thought to be autoimmune in nature
- if left untreated may progress to **cirrhosis** and eventually the need for **liver transplantation**.

PBC is often detected through blood tests that show

- elevated Alkaline Phosphatase
- elevated Alanine Aminotransferase
- positive AMA (or ANA)
- further investigations may include a Fibroscan[®] and/or liver Biopsy

Ursodeoxycholic acid (URSO)

- is the only drug currently approved in Canada for the treatment of PBC
- helps prevent the damaging effects of bile in the liver and is intended to slow disease progression

SPECIALIST	PBC RELATED SYMPTOMS	RELATED DISEASES
Allergist	Itchiness	Pruritus; Sjogren's Syndrome (dry eyes/mouth)
Dermatologist	Itchiness; skin rashes; darkening skin; fatty deposits around eyes, eyelids or in the creases of palms, soles, elbows, knees; jaundice; xanthomas	Scleroderma/CREST Psoriasis
Endocrinologist	Under-active thyroid, pain in upper right side	Thyroid Disease, Diabetes, Osteoporosis
Neurologist	Fatigue; brain fog; bone, muscle, joint pain	Fibromyalgia
Psychiatrist	Fatigue; depression	Depression
Rheumatologist	Joint pains; edema in feet ankles	Rheumatoid Arthritis; Raynaud's Disease; Scleroderma/CREST; Fibromyalgia; Osteoporosis
Ophthalmologist	Dry eyes	
Oncologist		Liver cancer (only with cirrhosis)