

	PRIMARY BILIARY CHOLANGITIS (PBC)	
	<h1>Seeing a new Physician</h1>	
Canadian PBC Society	PBC FACT SHEET	(07/12/17)

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)

- The first PBC treatment, it is a bile salt replacement which helps prevent the damaging effects of bile in the liver and is intended to slow disease progression. The dose is weight based.

Obeticholic Acid (Ocaliva)

- A farnesoid X receptor (FXR) agonist that will fill an important unmet need for patients who do not respond to URSO. The dose is 5mg titrated to 10mg.

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)