	PRIMARY BILIARY CHOLANGITIS (PBC)
	# Seeing a new Physician
Canadian PBC Society	**PBC FACT SHEET** (01-13-26)

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

PBC Diagnosis – may be based upon bloodwork including:

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

PBC Treatments

First line treatment is URSO (Ursodeoxycholic acid), a bile salt replacement which helps prevent the damaging effects of bile in the liver

Second line treatments are available for those who do not fully respond to or cannot tolerate URSO.

OCALIVA (Obeticholic Acid)
IQIRVO (Elafibranor)
LYDELZI (Seladelpar)
bezafibrate

Non-liver specialists may not be familiar with PBC symptoms that may overlap with symptoms related to other diseases.

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