



Liver and Gallbladder

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THE LIVER AND BILE DUCTS

The normal adult liver weighs 1400 to 1600 gm. It has a dual blood supply, with the portal vein providing 60% to 70% of hepatic blood flow and the hepatic artery supplying the remaining 30% to 40%. The portal vein and the hepatic artery enter the inferior aspect of the liver through the hilum, or *porta hepatis*. Within the liver, the branches of the portal veins, hepatic arteries, and bile ducts travel in

parallel within *portal tracts*, ramifying variably through 17 to 20 orders of branches.

The most common terminology of the hepatic microarchitecture is based on the lobular model (Fig. 18-1). Accordingly the liver is divided into 1- to 2-mm in diameter *lobules* that are oriented around the terminal tributaries of the hepatic vein (*terminal hepatic veins*), with portal tracts at the lobule's periphery. These are often drawn as hexagonal structures, although in humans the shapes are far more variable; nonetheless, it is a useful oversimplification. The hepatocytes in the vicinity of the terminal hepatic vein are

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