The Liver and Liver Transplants—Checking for Understanding

Check Facts

1. List at least four functions of your liver.

2. Describe two causes of liver failure in adults.

3. Identify an action that you can take to help keep your liver healthy.

4. After a transplant, a patient must take medication.
   a) What are some of the side effects of the medications one must take after a liver transplant?

   b) Why are these medications necessary, despite the side effects?

Apply Your New Knowledge

5. Why is geography important to consider? In other words, why might a hospital give a liver to a patient closer to the hospital, even if this patient has been waiting for less time or is not as sick as another patient who lives farther away?

6. Out of all of the people waiting for a liver in 2008, what percentage died while waiting for a liver transplant?
7. Suppose that you are giving a presentation to compare percentage survival in males vs. females one year, three years, and five years after a liver transplant from a deceased donor. Using the area below, prepare a line graph in which you show the relevant data.
   a) Consider which variable (number of years or percentage survival) you will place on the X (independent) axis and which variable you will place on the Y (dependent) axis. Label each axis, and decide on an appropriate scale.
   b) Make two lines, one for females and one for males. Color-code your lines (or make one dashed and one solid).
   c) Provide a descriptive title.

8. On the basis of your graph above, do you think that the patient’s sex (male vs. female) makes a small, medium, or large difference in terms of percentage survival over five years?