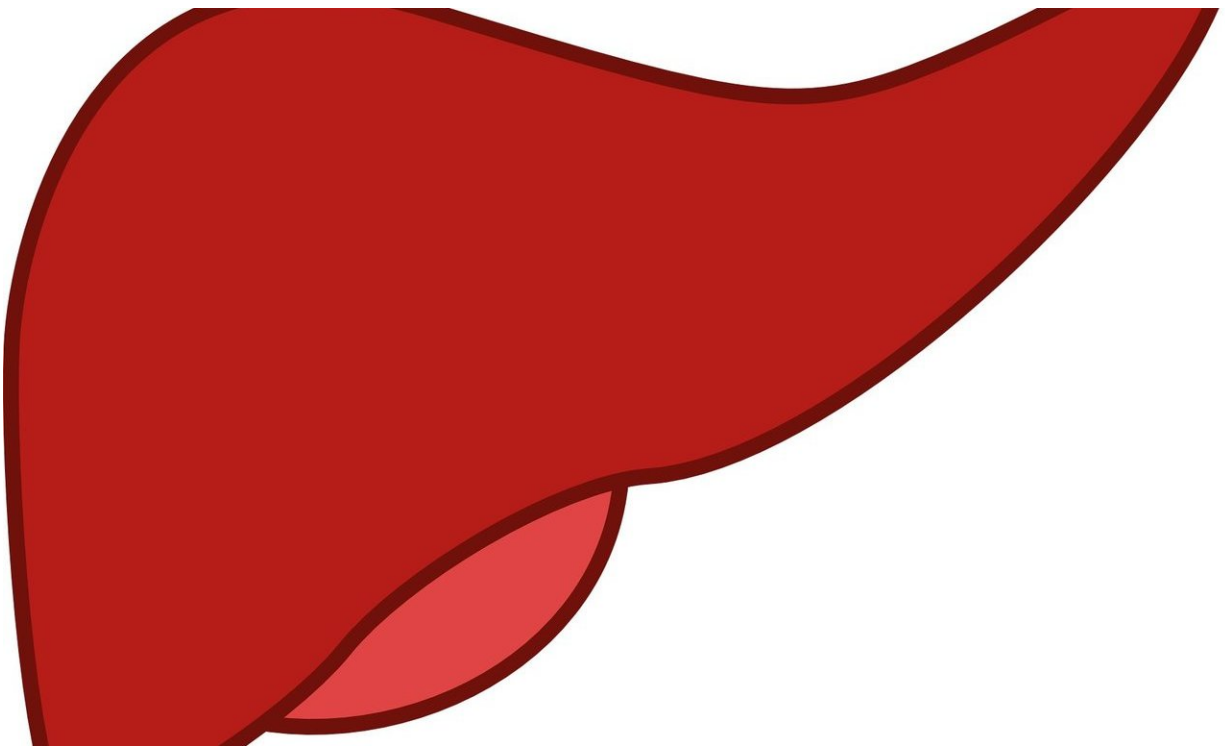


Spain reports first deaths from acute hepatitis in children

August 5 2022



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Spain has reported its first two deaths from acute hepatitis, or liver inflammation, among children—an illness whose causes are unknown and is being monitored by world health officials.

Spain's Health Ministry said that 46 cases of the illness have been

reported in Spain and that three required [liver transplants](#).

Of the three, two died—a 15-month-old baby in June and a 6-year-old in July.

The Ministry said in a statement Thursday that 507 cases were reported in 21 countries of Europe as of July 28, with 273 of them in Britain.

In the United States there have been at least 180 cases and six reported deaths.

Health officials remain perplexed by the causes of the hepatitis and say the best available evidence points to a stomach bug that isn't known to cause liver problems in otherwise healthy kids.

Spain says it began closely monitoring the situation following an alert to the World Health Organization by Britain following a spike in cases.

The ministry said that so far it has not noticed an increase in the number of cases of this type of hepatitis compared to estimates made with data from previous years.

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