

Diagnosis and Treatment of Post-Cholecystectomy Iatrogenic Biliary Injury: A Retrospective Study

MICHAEL W. SHAKER, M.Sc.; MOHAMED FAYEK, M.D. and ABD M. EZZAT, M.D.

The Department of General Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University

Abstract

Background: Preventive strategies and safe surgery are of utmost importance to minimize BDI during cholecystectomy. The importance of frank communication with the patient and accurate documentation cannot be overemphasized. Diagnosis requires a high index of suspicion with focused clinical, biochemical, and radiological examination.

Aim of Study: Is to evaluate the best protocol in management of iatrogenic biliary injuries sustained during either laparoscopic or open cholecystectomy.

Patients and Methods: 40 patients with iatrogenic bile duct injuries following cholecystectomy (open and Laparoscopic) referred to the Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery at Sohag Teaching Hospital, Sohag Univeristy, Egypt from January 2016 to January 2018 and treated by multidisciplinary approach team including hepatobiliary surgeons, gastroenterologists, and interventional radiologists.

Results: In this retrospective study there were 12 cases that detected intraoperatively; 2 cases of them with complete cut of CBD. 8 cases (66, 67%) with partial injury of CBD and the other 2 cases (16.67%) with partial injury of CHD; 9 cases were repaired by primary repair of CBD and 3 cases by repair over stent. There were 14 cases detected early postoperative 1 (7.14%) case with complete injury of CBD and 4 (28.57%) cases with partial injury of CBD and 6 (42.86%) cases with ligation of CBD and one (7.14%) case with slipped cystic duct ligature and 2 cases with ligation of CHD. There were 14 cases were detected late postoperatively 3 cases of them were with slipped cystic duct ligature and 11 cases with stricture of CBD.

Conclusion: Advanced laparoscopic fellowship training may decrease conversion rates of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This may translate into a slightly shorter duration of hospitalization for these patients, which for a high volume procedure could make a significant impact on hospital economics.

Key Words: Cholecystectomy – Iatrogenic biliary Injury.

Introduction

IATROGENIC biliary trauma has increased many folds ever since laparoscopic cholecystectomy came into practice. Associated morbidity, mortality and the long term sequel of such injuries have made them the most dreaded complications of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This has been ascribed to the lack of experience in this new technique. A decline in the rate of iatrogenic biliary trauma expected with passage of time [1].

A number of mechanisms were postulated including an undue dissection in a distorted Calot's triangle, use of diathermy close to bile ducts, local pathology such as acute and chronic inflammation with fibroses gallbladder, excessive traction on gallbladder, a casual attitude during surgery and human error [2].

The diagnostic evaluation of the patient with biliary injuries should include accurate determination of the biliary anatomy. Many studies proposed investigations like intra-operative cholangiography and magnetic resonance cholangiogram to reduce the rate [3].

Early recognition of iatrogenic biliary injury is essential in any patient who has an atypical course following cholecystectomy to prevent major morbidity Accordingly, Imaging techniques, such as Ultrasound and CT, are extremely valuable during the initial evaluation of a patient of having a biliary injury.

ERCP can confirm the presence of biliary injury and provides a means for definitively managing many injuries with temporary internal stents. If complete disruption or occlusion of the proximal bile duct is present, prompt evaluation with Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiography (PTC) is

Correspondence to: Dr. Michael W. Shaker, The Department of General Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University

necessary to define the biliary anatomy and decompress the biliary system [4].

Non invasive imaging techniques, such as Magnetic Resonance Cholangio pancreatography (MRCP) and CT cholangiography can be used to evaluate bile duct injuries. CT cholangiography has also been shown to be an effective means of imaging the biliary tree. Too much debate about the treatment of iatrogenic biliary injury is still present. Endoscopic intervention can be safe and effective method of treatment in some cases and surgery can be the treatment of choice in some cases. However, management should be individualized based on factors such as outpatients or inpatients, presence of stone, stricture, ligature, or coagulopathy [5].

The surgical treatment of elective IBDI is made using different methods of biliary reconstructions. The main aim of surgical treatment is the reconstruction of proper flow of bile to the alimentary tract. The following operations are performed in biliary injuries surgical treatment: Roux-Y hepaticojejunostomy, end-to-end ductal biliary anastomosis with tube drainage choledochoduodenostomy, hepaticojejunostomy, jejunal interposition hepaticojejunostomy [6].

To prevent post cholecystectomy biliary duct injury morbidity and mortality, a long way we have to walk over. And such purposes have been introduced in our dictionary since the increasing bulk of people who have many surgical interventions nowadays.

Aim of the work:

The aim of this work is to evaluate the best protocol in management of iatrogenic biliary injuries sustained during either laparoscopic or open cholecystectomy.

Patients and Methods

This retrospective study included 40 patients with iatrogenic bile duct injuries following cholecystectomy (open and Laparoscopic) referred to the Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery at Sohag Teaching Hospital, Sohag University, Egypt from January 2016 to January 2018 and treated by multidisciplinary approach team including hepatobiliary surgeons, gastroenterologists, and interventional radiologists. The multidisciplinary team was established after ethical and scientific approval from Hepatobiliary Department. All cases of iatrogenic bile duct injuries should undergo this multidisciplinary team approach to set up a road map management of such cases.

All patients complained of postcholecystectomy biliary tract injuries encountered with variable presentation and timing from the surgical insult. Cases were subjected to the following: Thorough detailed history taking and meticulous clinical examination.

Operative details of the previous cholecystectomy should be revised with surgical team of referring hospital.

Investigation needed to diagnose the problems such as liver function tests and abdominal ultrasound were done for all cases as routine preliminary workup. Computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging was done in some cases. Cholangiogram was done for all cases (the gold standard evaluation of biliary injuries) as a trans-tube cholangiogram (with a T-tube in place), an endoscopic cholangiography endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in most cases, or percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram in some selected cases in which endoscopic approaches failed.

After receiving patients data by multidisciplinary team, patient condition was categorized through discussion of detailed results of treatment for each category to reach consensus on which type of modality to start with, either endoscopy or intervention radiology as minimal techniques for definitive treatment or bridging technique for definitive surgery (as complementary tool) prior to surgery or whether surgery still is needed for definitive treatment or surgery is mandatory from the start as definitive treatment.

Also the multidisciplinary team approach gave an outreach service for on-table repair of iatrogenic bile duct injuries to nearby hospitals around the tertiary center in 19 cases after receiving emergency call from the surgical team in those hospitals.

Patients were categorized according to the presentation into the biliary leakage group and the biliary stricture group as diagnosed by previous tools. Each group was managed according to the road map made by multidisciplinary team, starting with the minimally invasive tools (endoscopic treatment alone or in addition to percutaneous interventional radiological manipulation in difficult cases) to more invasive surgical treatment.

Biliary leakage group classified according to the classification of Strasberg et al., was managed by endoscopic sphincterotomy in mild cases and/or stenting in moderate to major leakage, with concomitant stone extraction if present with the common bile duct (CBD) by ERCP.

Biliary stricture group categorized according to the classification of Strasberg et al., was treated initially by endoscopic dilatation and stenting in repeated endoscopic sessions, with upgrading of the stent, until cure was obtained (after full dilatation of the stricture segment as evident by loss of the waist in the cholangiogram).

Percutaneous manipulation was attempted in cases of proximal biliary injuries as in major CBD injuries, transaction, or ligation through percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram as diagnostic tool prior to surgery, percutaneous manipulations, and guide wire deployment through the CBD prior to combined procedures (Rendezvous) techniques or percutaneous dilatation and stenting for stricture or injuries.

Surgical approaches: Surgical intervention was attempted for the cases not fixed by endoscopy or interventional radiology or cases which deserved surgical intervention from the start (transection, ligation, fibrotic stricture of CBD, and postoperative stenotic stricture in bilioenteric anastomosis (redo operation), with the following surgical maneuvers:, Emergency surgery for peritoneal lavage and drainage of biliary peritonitis, on table repair of iatrogenic bile duct injuries in cases diagnosed intraoperatively in our center or as an outreach service in nearby hospitals, Primary repair on T-tube splint in a minor laceration injury of the CBD, Choledocholithotomy procedure in associated CBD stones and Undoing CBD ligation.

Bilioenteric anastomosis operations were done as a Roux-En-Y loop depending upon the site of injury, in proximal injuries in porta hepatis (Hepp-Couinaud technique), was capitalized on the extrahepatic course of the left main hepatic duct. Hepaticojejunostomy was done (for the injuries above the biliary confluence) in which the repair was done in the common hepatic duct or at the bile duct confluence with widening the stoma by opening the right and left bile ducts together at site of confluence (stomoplasty), or choledochojejunostomy was done (in the injuries below the cystic duct insertion and the proximal bile and hepatic duct was not cicatrized or infected). The bilioenteric anastomosis may be side to side or end to side maneuvers depending upon the site and extent of the biliary injuries, and the anastomosis was tension free, mucosa to mucosa, and good wide stoma, with T-tube or biliary splint (specially small ducts) in majority of the cases to decompress the biliary tree in the immediate post-operative period and to obtain postoperative, contrast studies.

Statistical analysis:

Data were analyzed using STATA intercooled version 12.1. Quantitative data was represented as mean, standard deviation, median and range. Data was analyzed using ANOVA for comparison of the means of three groups. When the data was not normally distributed Kruskal Wallis test was used. Qualitative data was presented as number and percentage and compared using Chi square test. Graphs were produced by using Excel or STATA program. *p*-value was considered significant if it was less than 0.05.

Results

Table (1): Patients' characteristic.

Characteristic	Summary characteristics
<i>Age/year:</i>	
Mean (SD)	39.53 (11.85)
Median (range)	39 (20-60)
<i>Gender:</i>	
Females	27 (67.50%)
Males	13 (32.50%)
<i>Address:</i>	
Aswan	4 (10.00%)
Asyiut	3 (7.5%)
Luxor	1 (2.50%)
Qena	5 (12.50%)
Sohag	27 (67.50%)

Table (2): Time of intervention of studied population.

Time of intervention	Summary statistics
Intraoperative	12 (30.00%)
Early postoperative	14 (35%)
Late postoperative	14 (35%)

Table (3): Demographic characteristic of studied population.

Characteristic	Intraoperative N=12	Early postoperative N=14	Late postoperative N=14	<i>p</i> - value
<i>Age/year:</i>				
Mean (SD)	32.83 (8.21)	39.43 (14.49)	45.36 (8.72)	0.02
Median (range)	37 (21-44)	41 (20-60)	44.5 (32-58)	
<i>Gender:</i>				
Females	11 (91.67%)	8 (57.14%)	8 (57.14%)	0.10
Males	1 (8.33%)	6 (42.86%)	6 (42.86%)	
<i>Address:</i>				
Aswan	2 (16.67%)	1 (7.14%)	1 (7.14%)	0.58
Asyiut	2 (16.67%)	0	1 (7.14%)	
Luxor	0	0	1 (7.14%)	
Qena	1 (8.33%)	3 (21.43%)	1 (7.14%)	
Sohag	7 (58.33%)	10 (71.43%)	10 (71.43%)	

Table (4): Anthropometric measurements of studied population.

Anthropometric measurements	Intraoperative N=12	Early postoperative N=14	Late postoperative N=14	<i>p</i> - value
<i>BMI:</i>				
Mean (SD)	27.82 (5.16)	34.26	23.45	
Median (range)	26.17 (20.55-35.65)	27.05 (20.57-33.29)	26.86 (21.88-33.22)	

Table (5): Investigations of studied population.

Investigations	Intraoperative N=12	Early postoperative N=14	Late postoperative N=14	<i>p</i> - value
<i>Hemoglobin:</i>				
Mean (SD)	9.64 (1.41)	10.51 (1.79)	11.32 (1.60)	
Median (range)	11.5 (9.9-14)	10.75 (9-15)	11.8 (8-14)	
<i>WBCs:</i>				
Mean (SD)	8542 (3001)	13742(2495)	6521 (3245)	
Median (range)	6750 (4000-13000)	8450 (3500-12700)	6250 (3400-14000)	
<i>Total bilirubin:</i>				
Mean (SD)	1.08 (0.25)	4.32 (2.09)	5.71 (2.98)	0.0001
Median (range)	1 (0.8-1.5)	5 (0.8-7)	6.25 (1-11)	
<i>Direct bilirubin:</i>				
Mean (SD)	0.38 (0.31)	3.44 (1.92)	4.9 (2.67)	0.0001
Median (range)	0.2 (0.2-1)	4 (0.2-6.5)	5.5 (0.2-9)	
<i>Creatinine:</i>				
Mean (SD)	0.93 (0.31)	0.88 (0.47)	1.01 (0.42)	0.60
Median (range)	0.95 (0.4-1.5)	0.75 (0.3-2)	0.9 (0.5-1.9)	
<i>AST:</i>				
Mean (SD)	50.65 (14.41)	74 (24.70)	39 (19.66)	
Median (range)	44.5 (24-72)	60 (28-11)	62 (25-88)	
<i>ALT:</i>				
Mean (SD)	75 (16.84)	90 (22.46)	64 (16.14)	
Median (range)	63 (24-85)	78 (37-112)	72 (30-95)	

Table (6): Intraoperative findings of studied population.

Intraoperative findings	Intraoperative N=12	Early postoperative N=14	Late postoperative N=14	<i>p</i> - value
<i>Grade of bile duct injury:</i>				
Complete cut of CBD	2	1 (7.14%)	0	
Partial injury of CBD	8 (66.67%)	4 (28.57%)	0	
Partial injury of CHD	2 (16.67%)	0	0	
Ligation of CBD	0	6 (42.86%)	0	
Ligation of CHD	0	2	0	
Ligation of Rt. HD	0	0	0	
Slipped cystic duct ligature or clip	0	1 (7.14%)	0	
Stricture of CBD	0	0	3	
Stricture of CHD	0	0	11	
<i>Associated injuries:</i>				
No	12 (100%)	11 (78.57%)	14 (100%)	0.20
Serosal injury of stomach	0	1 (7.14%)	0	
Small intestinal injury	0	2 (14.29%)	0	
<i>Procedure performed:</i>				
Iry repair of CBD	9	2	0	
Choledocoj ejunostomy	0	0	3	
Hepaticojejunostomy rouxeny	0	9	11	
Peritoneal lavage with drainage of peritonitis	0	1 (7.14%)	0	
Repair over a stent	0	0	0	
Repair over t tube	3	2	0	

Table (7): Postoperative follow-up of studied population.

Postoperative findings	Intraoperative N=12	Early postoperative N=14	Late postoperative N=14	P- value
<i>Complication:</i>				
No	12 (100%)	8 (57.14%)	14 (100%)	0.001
Yes	0	6 (42.86%)	0	
<i>Need for re-operation:</i>				
No	12 (100%)	10 (71.43%)	14 (100%)	0.02
Yes	0	4 (28.57%)	0	
<i>Normalization of AST (days):</i>				
Mean (SD)	1.5 (0.64)	2.21 (0.80)	1.5 (0.52)	0.04
Median (range)	1.25 (1-2.5)	2 (1-4)	1.5 (1-3)	
<i>Normalization of Bilirubin (days):</i>				
Mean (SD)	2.06 (1.16)	3.14 (1.03)	2.07 (0.73)	0.01
Median (range)	1.6 (1-4.6)	3 (2-5)	2 (1-3)	
<i>ICU stay:</i>				
No	12 (100%)	10 (71.43%)	14 (100%)	0.02
Yes	0	4 (28.57%)	0	
<i>Hospital stay:</i>				
Mean (SD)	3.58 (1.37)	7.79 (1.67)	4.57 (1.28)	0.008
Median (range)	3 (2-7)	7.5 (5-10)	4 (3-7)	
<i>Outcome:</i>				
Alive	12 (100%)	13 (78.57%)	14 (100%)	0.049
Dead	0	3 (21.43%)	0	

Discussion

In our study, only one patient underwent US guided aspiration of bile collection successfully. Show et al., advocated this technique and considered it superior to doing an unnecessary laparotomy for the patients. ERCP was successfully performed as a preoperative diagnostic investigation in 87.5% of the patients in our study. Similar results were seen in the study by Martin et al., where 88% of their patients successfully underwent preoperative diagnostic ERCP [7].

It was noticed in our study that ERCP failed in one patient to assess the biliary tree, most probably owing to extensive stricture of bile ducts with severe fibrosis which pulls the proximal stump to a much higher level and pulling the distal stump. Diagnostic workup and treatment of bile duct injuries need a multidisciplinary approach requiring gastroenterologists, radiologists, and surgeon [8].

These results are also comparable with those of Martin et al., who had a success rate of 89%. The endoscopic treatment succeeded in all five patients to give the desired therapy with closure of the fistula and complete relieve of jaundice in all five patients within 2 weeks. The fistula was closed after 10 days in one patient, after 2 weeks in two patients, and after 20 days in other two patients. During the period of follow-up (mean 9

months), there was no recurrence of fistula or jaundice [9].

In the study by Misra et al., 32% of their patients successfully underwent PTC as the preoperative diagnostic measure. PTC is helpful in identifying the proximal extent of complete segmental and major bile duct injuries and obstruction but can cause complications such as cholangitis, bile leakage, and even hemorrhage. MRCP was done for eight (32%) patients in our study (nevertheless, it was of excellent standard in determining the exact site of stricture and in demonstration of the exact anatomy of the proximal biliary tree) [10].

In our study, it had a diagnostic accuracy of 100%. In a study performed by Hakansson et al., MRC provided additional information that may not be available by PTC in delineating complete anatomy and injury of biliary tract. In our study, 82% of the patients underwent surgical corrective procedures for their bile duct injuries [11].

Persistence of symptoms after cholecystectomy may be due to retained stones or regeneration of stones in the remnant gallbladder. This usually takes the form of right upper quadrant abdominal pain and dyspepsia, with or without jaundice. The causes of post-cholecystectomy syndrome are often non-biliary like peptic ulcer, gastroesophageal reflux, pancreatic disorders, liver diseases, irritable bowel and coronary artery disease [12].

There may also be gender-specific risk factors for developing symptoms after cholecystectomy. Bodvall and Overgaard found that the incidence of recurrent symptoms among female patients was 43%, compared to 28% among male patients. Several reports have proposed that a cystic duct remnant > 1 cm in length after cholecystectomy may be responsible, at least in part, for post-cholecystectomy syndrome, other authors refute this [13].

Residual gallstones are more often reported in cystic duct remnants. The possible etiology of such an occurrence is often a failure to define the cystic duct, CBD junction. This is more likely to occur in the presence of acute local inflammation or fibrosis. It may be prudent to dissect the cystic duct up to the common duct defining their junction in selected patients [14].

Patients at increased risk of harboring stones in the cystic duct are patients with a history of biliary colics, pancreatitis, obstructive jaundice and those having undergone therapeutic ERCP prior to clipping and dividing the cystic duct. Stones in the cystic duct may be evident on visualization or may also be palpated with the dissector [15].

Adhesions around the cystic duct may be another indicator of an impacted stone within it. In these circumstances, dissection should continue proximal to the stone towards junction of the cystic duct and CBD. With increasing experience, it is almost always possible to apply clips on the cystic duct proximal to the stone. No attempt should be made to 'milk' the stone distally, as such a maneuver may fragment the stone that may pass into the common duct and lead to biliary colic in the post-operative period [16].

Incomplete gallbladder removal during cholecystectomy may be both voluntary and inadvertent. Kuster and Domagk recommend a temporary laparoscopic cholecystostomy followed by delayed laparoscopic cholecystectomy as an alternative to conversion to open cholecystectomy in acute cholecystitis [17].

Subtotal cholecystectomy has been recommended as a safe and viable option in patients where anatomical distortion at Calot's triangle precludes a safe dissection. Conversion rate to open surgery is higher for patients with acute cholecystitis than in those without acute cholecystitis. Laparoscopic subtotal cholecystectomy has been suggested as an alternative to decrease this conversion rate [18].

ERCP is popular as a diagnostic and therapeutic tool in managing extrahepatic biliary pathology. However, it is an invasive investigation and associated with a specific procedure related complications. The main advantage of MRCP is its non-invasiveness, absence of sedation and avoidance of radiation exposure. Its sensitivity and specificity are similar to EUS [19].

The bile duct may also be injured by excessive diathermy, resulting in a bile leak or a stricture. Insecure clipping of the cystic duct may also result in bile leakage. If these injuries are not at the time of surgery, they present as a colleague lections or jaundice postoperatively. ERCP will delineate the exact injury accurately. These injuries are preventable by careful attention to technique and a willingness to convert to open surgery when difficulties are encountered. To mini-mize the risk to patients, programs of training, proctoring, and accreditation in laparoscopic surgery should be established [20].

In our study, all patients had excellent recovery and were discharged in a good condition within 10 days of surgery; however, long-term follow-up was not available. Strictures may develop early (within days or weeks) or may take years to develop and vary in both diameter and length [21].

Early strictures may develop due to intra-operative procedures such as clamping, ligation or clipping of the duct or thermal injury. Local infection may also result in both early and delayed stricture formation. Thermal injury and occult malignancy are important causes of delayed stricture formation [22].

A thorough knowledge of the anatomy of the region, including possible anomalies, is important in preventing iatrogenic bile duct injuries. Both open cholecystectomy and LC are based on similar operative principles. Proper exposure and visualization, careful dissection, adequate haemostasis, careful placement of ligatures and clips, and division of structures only after proper identification are essential for safe cholecystectomy [23].

Fundus-first cholecystectomy is well recognized as a safe technique during open cholecystectomy as well as during LC, because it minimizes the risk of injuries to the biliary structures at the Calot's triangle. Further specialised training to heighten awareness of the possible problems relating to the anatomy of the Calot's triangle is essential, not only for trainees but also for consultants engaged in this field [24].

In recent studies it has been demonstrated that the basic cause of error is not the inexperience of the surgeon, but the use of an improper approach in relation to the extrahepatic biliary tree due to a visual perceptual illusion. In reference to IOC in the scientific literature, there are many opinions about its routine or selective use, especially concerning the incidence of bile duct injury and missed CBD stones [25].

This method, however, is burdened by morbidity and should only be performed in facilities where the necessary equipment and experience are available. With regard to missed CBD stones, surgeons who support the routine use of IOC claim that asymptomatic CBD stones constitute about 10% of patients, and up to 2% show no signs of the disease, as is revealed by elevated liver function tests, dilated bile duct on ultrasonography, and a history of jaundice or pancreatitis [26].

In the current study, 2 cases (0.18%) of major bile duct injuries have been reported, which is a comparable rate to that of other similar reports ranging from 0.05 to 0.5%. Bile leakage represented 0.27% and missed CBD stones were found in 4 patients (0.36%) - data comparable to that of other studies.

Bile Duct Injury during LC without IOC lecyctectomy in doubtful cases. In the presence of acute or chronic cholecystitis, obesity, liver cirrhosis, previous surgery with extensive adhesions, anatomic variations, and intraoperative bleeding, the surgeon must not hesitate when considering conversion to open approach; there is no substitute for experience and caution in biliary surgery [27].

Bile-duct injury and bile leak are important considerations in patients who develop difficulties in the early postoperative period following laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Postoperative collections are common and of no clinical concern if found incidentally in an asymptomatic patient. However, when clinical symptoms such as abdominal pain, fever, jaundice, or leukocytosis are present, a biliary injury should be considered [28].

Sonography and CT are helpful in detect abdominal fluid flow collections but can not differentiate bile from other fluids. Hepatobiliary scintigraphy is very useful in these patients, often showing disruption of the biliary tree without the need for invasive intervention. PTC and ERCP further defines the exact site of biliary injury, and have the added advantage of offering nonoperative management for most injuries except complete bile-duct transection [29].

Bile duct injuries have become commoner in recent years. The overall acceptance of laparoscopic cholecystectomy you have increased the number of operations performed for gall-bladder disease worldwide. Compared with open operation ion, the prevalence of duct injury is greater when laparoscopy is employed but the difference has not the statistical significance Several recommendations have been put forward to reduce the risk of bile duct injury, yet the accident continues to occur with an incidence of 0.3-0.6% in many centers [30].

A major bile duct injury resulting from LC is a problem with substantial cost to the health care system. Savader et al., reported that treatment for LC-related bile duct injuries can be 4.5 to 26 times the cost of an uncomplicated procedure and carries a significant rate of morbidity and mortality. However intraoperative recognition of such an injury, with immediate conversion to an open procedure for definitive repair, can result in significant cost saving and relates directly to decreased morbidity, mortality, length of hospitalization, and number of operative care days [31].

The role of routine intraoperative cholangiography in preventing the biliary injury has been controversial, with some reports claiming that it lowers the risk of injury and others refuting this claim. Still others report that although cholangiography does not lower the risk of biliary injury directly, it allows early recognition and prevents further extension of the injury [32].

Literature on predisposing factors for biliary injury during LC suggests that the presence of acute cholecystitis has the strongest correlation. However, some reports say this may not be true. Ooi et al., reported a retrospective review of 4,445 laparoscopic cholecystectomies with 19 biliary injuries (0.43%). They found that inflammation at Calot's triangle was an important associated factor for injury [33].

We also included the timing of BDI detection intraoperatively, either by a bile leak or cholangiography, or the early consequences thereof, such as a biloma, abscess, or biliary peritonitis, or invariably late, resulting in stricture or hepatic atrophy. The importance of this categorization is because management is different according to what has already been done (artery ligation, opening of the bile duct) and the moment when the BDI is detected for example, during the index operation, the immediate postoperative period (often with sepsis), or late (stricture) [34].

We chose not to indicate whether the BDI was the consequence of an opening in the main bile duct with the intention of accomplishing or not accomplishing an action, such as inserting a catheter; removing a stone, parasite, or foreign body; or preparing an anastomosis. We had several reasons for this. First, we did not want to use the word intentional, as its definition is not universal. Second, the term has a medicolegal connotation [35].

Percutaneous intervention is performed for biloma and abscess drainage, transhepatic biliary drainage, U-tube placement, dilation of bile duct strictures and stent placement to maintain ductal patency, and management of complications from previous percutaneous interventions. Endoscopic and percutaneous interventional procedures may be performed for definitive treatment or as adjuncts to definitive surgical repair [36].

Some authors recommend routine use of IOC; they found that about one third of the BDIs could be prevented using IOC. However, there is much controversy in the literature on the routine use of IOC. Olsen reported a series of 177 BDIs where only 2 of the 32 IOCs performed were interpreted correctly [37].

The definitive therapy for BDI depends on the type of lesion and the timing of its recognition. The rate for intraoperative detection of BDI was 19% in the present study, whose percentage is well in accordance with earlier reports [38].

Most studies comparing LCs with OCs have been performed shortly after the introduction of LC. Nowadays, it is generally accepted that LC is the gold standard operation for uncomplicated gallstone disease and early acute cholecystitis, whereas OC is reserved for the most complex cases, usually in the emergency setting for severe acute cholecystitis [39].

Patients undergoing OC are usually severely ill, have several comorbidities, and are elderly, whereas patients undergoing LC are substantially healthier and younger and operations are usually done as elective procedures for biliary colic. Therefore, the differences in these patient populations are currently so substantial that any true comparison between them is unjustified [40].

BDI rates are hard to assess even from large single center reports. Our results are in line with rates published from large adult series and data sets. Dolan et al. assessed the National Inpatient Sample and used a strict BDI definition of LC followed by a procedure code representing biliary

reconstruction in the same hospitalization and quoted an overall rate of 0.15% in adult patients [41].

Dolan et al., may have an underestimate of BDI as many patients with BDI are referred to specialized centers for management and may be excluded from their analysis which required the LC and the biliary reconstruction to be performed at the same institution [42].

Consequently, Strasberg et al., made the Bismuth classification much more comprehensive by including other types of laparoscopic extrahepatic bile duct injury. Significant postoperative bile leak may occur in up to 1% of patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy compared to 0.5% after open cholecystectomy and is mainly caused by a slipped cystic duct ligature or leak from an accessory or anomalous bile duct. Bile leak usually presents within the first week but can manifest and be diagnosed up to 30 days after surgery; symptoms are unspecific and could be related to other postoperative [43].

Clinical manifestations of bile leak include persistent abdominal tenderness, generalized malaise and anorexia. Bile leak after surgery resulting in intraperitoneal bile collection is typically not contaminated by bacterium and usually does not result in severe bile peritonitis. Detecting and locating bile leak may not be easy; patients usually undergo US and CT examinations but these methods can not reliably distinguish bile leak from other postoperative fluid collection such as blood, pus, or serous fluid because of similar densities [44].

Bile leak after laparoscopic cholecystectomy is reported in 0.3%-2.7% of patients. The morbidity and mortality of bile leak is significant if not treated promptly. The formation of a communication between a liver abscess and bile duct is an uncommon cause of bile leak. Surgical management of a biliary fistula is associated with high morbidity and mortality [45].

However, because of the rarity of the condition and lack of uniform approach, there is paucity of data in the literature regarding the outcomes of endoscopic approaches in bile leak. There has been no study from India previously published in the literature describing the efficacy of endoscopic management in bile leak [46].

The mechanisms and gravity of biliary injuries may therefore differ with laparoscopic cholecystectomy and it is not surprising that approaches to

treatment may differ also. It is not necessary to adopt the traditional common surgical approach with bilio-enteric anastomosis for all bile duct injuries occurring during laparoscopic cholecystectomy [47].

It was shown that laparoscopic cholecystectomy has significantly fewer complications than the open, but the iatrogenic lesions of the biliary tract occur twice or even three times more often. Already the first major multicenter study from Europe and the United States has found such injuries in 0.5% of patients. The number of biliary tract injury during open cholecystectomy according to various authors is up to 0.2% [48].

Injury of Luschkin duct is found in 33% of the patients and it is a frequent complication. The biliary duct injury can be caused by lack of surgeon experience performing laparoscopy, but the cause may be difficult operating findings, such as gangrenous, acutely infamed or atrophic gallbladder, which is a consequence of long-term chronic inflammation [49].

Biliary complications are reported in many studies. The extra-biliary complications do occur with almost the same frequency and severity but tend to be under-reported in the literature. The extra-biliary complications can be access-related or procedure-related. Different techniques of abdominal access are described but none has been found to be superior in terms of preventing access-related injuries [50].

In the field study component of this analysis, we found that >75% of respondents have experienced BDI and/or near-misses at some point during their surgical career. Moreover, the ratio was dependent on the number of life-time cases of cholecystectomies and it reached >80% among surgeons who had performed > 1,000 cases, which was similar to the observation by Massarweh et al. [51].

Operators appear to interpret their deficit in visual information based on what they “like to” see (i.e. cystic duct) rather than what they “don’t like to” see (i.e. common bile/hepatic duct or the right hepatic duct). A fixed mindset is difficult to correct and it is believed to occur even in cases without severe inflammation and among expert LC surgeons [52].

Although 95% of the reported cases of bile duct injury are of iatrogenic origin, the incidence of such complications during abdominal surgery is very low. The incidence rate of an accidental lesion of the common bile duct during routine cholecys-

tectomy at 51 Swedish hospitals from 1975: 1981 was recently reported to be only 0.07% [53].

The two patients with leakage from small biliary radicals were both successfully treated with endoscopically placed stents. Kozarek and Traverso have also reported a case in which a cystic duct leak after laparoscopic cholecystectomy was successfully managed with endoscopic stent placement [54].

The overall acceptance of laparoscopic cholecystectomy you have increased the number of operations performed world wide. Duct injury continues to occur with a prevalence of 0.3-0.6%. The present paper evaluates the survival and quality of life of patients following operative repair [55].

Open cholecystectomy has been associated historically with 0.2% to 0.5% risk of postoperative biliary injury. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy, which has become the first line surgical treatment of calculous gallbladder disease, has been associated with a 2.5 fold to fourfold increase in the incidence of postoperative bile duct injury [56].

The biliary endoscopist can expect to see a varied spectrum of complications after cholecystectomy by either technique, including postoperative biliary strictures, bile leaks, and retained calculi in the biliary tree. Proper diagnosis and treatment are paramount in ensuring a satisfactory outcome after bile duct injury. Endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancreatography (ERCP) has become the primary modality for treatment and effectively manages most bile duct injuries [57].

Approximately 75% of the BDI identified in our study were identifies the current management practice of such injuries. The findings of more recent studies combined with our findings strongly suggest that laparoscopic cholecystectomies are no longer more prone to BDI compared to an open approach [58].

Once the correlation between the laparoscopic approach and increased BDI rates was established in the literature, a plethora of theories for this finding were offered. Many publications concluded that the laparoscopic “learning curve” was the etiology of the increased BDI rates [59].

Conversion to an open procedure is a frequently taught alternative option during a difficult laparoscopic dissection or when a BDI is suspected. There is limited research regarding performing open cholecystectomies in the laparoscopic era, but the paucity of studies currently suggests an

increased risk of BDI in cases when a conversion from a laparoscopic to an open approach occurs [60].

That ending could be due to the lack of open cholecystectomy experience with the younger surgical generation leading to a greater likelihood of a BDI when a procedure is converted. Alternatively, this could reflect the altered anatomy and generally increased technical difficulty of these operations. Our results found the incidence of a BDI with a converted procedure was an outstanding 15% [61].

However, LC is associated with a higher incidence of bile duct injury compared to open cholecystectomy, and the incidence of bile duct injury associated with LC has risen from about 0.15% to 0.6%.

Only 30% of injuries are identified intraoperatively, and the majority present postoperatively with non-specific symptoms [62].

When the injuries are minor, by cold mechanisms and thin biliary ducts, the recommendation is primary suture and placement of abdominal drains in the area. The reconstruction with end to end anastomosis of the main bile duct with a T tube is recommended in cases of extensive or complete sections without thermal injury. In the current series, because of the type of injuries and the mechanisms involved, the most commonly used procedure was primary suture with decompression of the biliary tract [63].

Early biliary strictures developed in 2 patients and were re-treated satisfactorily with excellent results. Thermal injury in one patient and ischemia by devascularization in the other had direct implications on the development of stenosis [64].

The advantages of the intraoperative repair approach are the following: It is performed during the same anesthesia, avoids referring the patient to another institution, total hospitalization is shorter compared with delayed treatment, it generally requires few abdominal and biliary drains, and generates less psychological trauma for the patient. These events generate less discomfort to the patients and their family and are probably less likely to make malpractice litigations [65].

Bile duct injuries and subsequent leaks can occur following laparoscopic and open cholecystectomies and also during other hepatobiliary surgeries. Various patient related and technical factors

are implicated in the causation of biliary injuries. Over a period of twenty five years managing such patients of biliary injuries our team has found a practical approach to assess the cause of biliary injuries based on the symptoms, clinical examination and imaging. Bismuth classification is helpful in most of the cases [66].

Sahajpal examined factors influencing outcomes of repair in a large retrospective study of LC associated BDIs and concluded that repairs in the intermediate period after injury (72 hours) were associated with increased incidence of strictures compared to the immediate and delayed (more than 6 weeks) repairs [67].

Conclusions:

Our study demonstrates that advanced laparoscopic fellowship training may decrease conversion rates of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This may translate into a slightly shorter duration of hospitalization for these patients, which for a high volume procedure could make a significant impact on hospital economics. Nevertheless, further studies are necessary to further elucidate the benefits of formal advanced laparoscopic fellowship training.

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تشخيص وعلاج حالات إصابة القنوات المرارية ما بعد استئصال الحويصلة المرارية

الخلفية: ستظل مشاكل وإصابات القنوات المرارية من أسوأ مضاعفات عمليات الكبد والقنوات المرارية مع الوضع في الاعتبار انحسارها وقلة حدوث هذه الأخطاء مؤخراً مع تقدم المهارات والإمكانيات كما أن الألامم باحتمالية حدوث الأخطاء وكيفية التعامل معها يؤدي إلى تقليل الأضرار الواقعة على المريض وتفادي حدوث مضاعفات خطيرة.

الهدف: متابعة وتقييم توقيت ونتائج التدخل الجراحي لإصلاح إصابات القنوات المرارية الناتجة عن خطأ الجراح أثناء العمليات الجراحية المختلفة بالبطن ومقارنة النتائج وتأثيرها على المريض من حيث فترة البقاء في المستشفى بعد العملية وحوادث مضاعفات أم لا والحاجة إلى التدخل مرة أخرى أو المتابعة.

المرضى والطرق: إن استئصال المرارة عن طريق الفتح أو المنظار وسيلة مأمونة وفعالة لعلاج المرضى الذين يعانون من أعراض الحصوات في المرارة وعلى الرغم من أن المضاعفات المرارية قد تحدث مع كليهما إلا أنها كانت أكثر شيوعاً مع بداية تعلم استئصال المرارة بالمنظار وتشمل تسرب السائل المراري من القناة المرارية، إصابات القناة المرارية، نزول حصوات في القناة المرارية وضيق في القناة المرارية.

النتائج: تعتبر مضاعفات الإصابات المرارية هي الأكثر خطورة وقد أفادت الدراسات بأن أعلى معدل إصابات القناة المرارية يحدث نتيجة لاستئصال المرارة بالمنظار أكثر منها بالفتح الجراحي (٠.٦٪، ٠.٣٪) على التوالي كما أن هناك بعض الدراسات التي أوضحت أن نسبة حدوث تسريب السائل المراري تصل إلى ٨١٪ بعد المنظار الجراحي ولذلك فإن اختيار العلاج المناسب مهم جداً لأنه قد يجنب المريض مضاعفات خطيرة وخاصة مع وجود ضيق في القناة المرارية والذي قد يؤدي إلى التشمع، الفشل الكبدى والوفاة.

الخلاصة: التدخل الجراحي لإصلاح إصابات القنوات المرارية خلال شهرين من الإصابة بالقنوات المرارية يحمل نتائج جيدة للمريض من حيث فترة البقاء بالمستشفى وإحتمالية حدوث مضاعفات بعد العملية أو الحاجة إلى تدخل جراحي آخر من عدمه مقارنة بالتدخل الجراحي في الأسبوع الأول بعد العملية يحمل معه جزء من المخاطرة خاصة في وجود التهابات وتورم بالانسجة بعد العملية مع إحتمالية حدوث مضاعفات أخرى مثل التسرب المراري بعد العملية والبقاء فترة أطول بالمستشفى للمتابعة وارتفاع نسب حدوث الوفاة بعد العملية.