

Clinico-epidemiological study of gallbladder lump

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Abstract Introduction: Gallbladder disease represents a major health problem worldwide and has been known since the time of the Egyptian dynasty. More than 98% of all gallbladder and biliary track disorders are one way or another connected to cholelithiasis, and calculus diseases constitutes most of the cases that seek surgical attention. It may present as acute chole-cystitis which many progress to empyema, chronic calculus cholecystitis or mucocele. Carcinoma of the gallbladder (GBC), although it has a low overall prevalence, is the most common cancer of the biliary tree and one of the most highly malignant tumors with poor prognosis. **Aims and Objective:** To study the clinico epidemiological factors responsible for gall bladder disease presenting as lump. **Methodology:** All the cases presenting with gall bladder disease over the period of 12 months from 30 June 2007 till 29 June 2008 in the Surgery Out patient Department and Casualty at Gauhati Medical College And Hospital, Guwahati were included in this prospective study. Out of 149 cases, 56 were included in this study. **Result:** Overall the presentations of acute cases of gall bladder was more, than chronic and malignant, 29 (44.62%), 23(41.07%), 4 (40%). Maximal incidence in females was seen in the fifth decade, while the maximum incidence in males was seen in the fourth decade. The male to female ratio was 1:4.09 but in the malignant group the ratio is 1:3. Gallbladder disease with palpable lumps was maximally seen housewives, which is around 66.07%. Next common occupation was male cultivators constituting 10.71%. 32.2% of the case belonged to the lower middle class of society. **Conclusion:** As the cases were more common in Females in forty and in middle and low socio economic groups patients so special attention should be given for prevention and in the diagnosing these cases.

Keywords: Gall Bladder Lump, Gall Bladder Cancer (GBC).

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INTRODUCTION

Gallbladder disease represents a major health problem worldwide and has been known since the time of the Egyptian dynasty. More than 98% of all gallbladder and biliary track disorders are one way or another connected to cholelithiasis, and calculus diseases constitutes most of the cases that seek surgical attention. It may present as acute chole-cystitis which many progress to empyema, chronic calculus cholecystitis or mucocele. Carcinoma of the gallbladder (GBC), although it has a low overall prevalence, is the most common cancer of the biliary tree and one of the most highly malignant tumors with poor prognosis¹. Gallbladder carcinoma is two to six times

more common in women than men. Incidence increases with age and more than 75% of patients with this malignancy are older than 65 years. GBC is more common in Caucasians than in blacks and there is some evidence that the incidence is increasing in younger individuals². The risk of GBC in patients with gallstones has been reported to have increased four to seven times, the etiology of gallbladder cancer has been a source of speculation, the incidence of GBC parallels the prevalence of gallstone disease; large and longstanding gallstones being associated with a higher risk of GBC³. Gallstones constitute a significant health problem in developed societies, affecting 10% to 15% of the adult population, meaning 20 to 25 million Americans have (or will have) gall-stones^{4, 5, 6, 7}. White Americans have an overall prevalence of 16.6% in women and 8.6% in men.^{6,8} Intermediate prevalence rates occur in Asian populations^{9,10} and Black Americans (13.9% of women; 5.3% of men).⁶ The lowest frequencies occur in sub-Saharan Black Africans (<5%).¹¹

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

To see the clinical and epidemiological factors responsible for gall bladder disease presenting as lump.

METHODOLOGY

All the cases presenting with gall bladder disease over the period of 12 months from 30 June 2007 till 29 June 2008 in the Surgery Out patient Department and Casualty at Gauhati Medical College And Hospital, Guwahati were included in this prospective study. All cases had histological proven diagnosis. Diagnostic modalities were clinical followed by imaging with Contrast Enhanced Computerized Tomography/Ultrasound/image guided biopsy and or laparotomy. Test of proportion/chi square test were used for statistical analysis. Out of 149 cases, 56 were included in this study.

RESULT

Table 1: Showing the presentation of gallbladder lumps in different categories of gallbladder disease

Sr. No.	Gall Bladder disease	Total cases	Cases with findings	percentage
1.	Acute	59	29	49.15
2.	Chronic	86	23	26.74
3	Malignant	4	4	100
Total		149	56	12.47

In the **Table 1:** On the basis of the presentation and clinical findings, all cases were seen to belong to the three categories as outlined by Adams and Stranahan (1947): Acute begin gallbladder disease (Group I). This included cases such as acute cholecystitis, acute on chronic cholecystitis and empyema. Chronic benign gallbladder disease (Group II). This included cases such as gallbladder hydrops, gallbladder empyema with chronic presentation. Malignant gallbladder disease (Group III). During the study period the following potential false positives were encountered: hydronephrosis-1, hepatic flexure growth-1, hepatocellular carcinoma-1, hepatic secondaries-3, the physical features of the right sub-costal mass in each of the these cases were such that, disregarding the clinical picture, they could have been easily mistaken for gallbladder lumps. Additionally, palpable gallbladder secondary to disease further down the binary track were: 4 cases of carcinoma head of the pancreas.

Table 2: Disease specific Age-Sex Distribution

Sr. No.	Age Group (in years)	Acute Begin		Chronic Benign		Malignant		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	11-20	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
2	21-30	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	8
3	31-40	4	4	0	7	0	0	4	11
4	41-50	1	8	1	10	0	0	2	18
5	51-60	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	4
6	61-70	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Total		7	22	3	20	1	3	11	45
			29		23		4		56

In this series, cases ranged from 18 to 70 years. Maximal incidence in females was seen in the fifth decade, while the maximum incidence was seen in the fourth decade. The disease to female ratio was 1:4.09 but in the malignant group the ratio is 1:3. Acute disease was common in the fifth decade in females and also in males. This youngest patient was a 18 year old girl with acute calculus cholecystitis, there was one oldest 67 year old female suffering from carcinoma. The youngest patient with carcinoma of the gallbladder was a 55 years old female.

Table 3: Showing Occupational Distribution

Sr. No.	Occupational	Male	Female	Total
1	Cultivators	6	0	6
2	Teachers	0	3	3
3	Students	1	3	4
4	Housewives	-	37	37
5	Businessman	2	0	2
6	Govt. Service	3	1	4
Total		11	45	56

The occupational analysis of the patients in this study has been presented in Table 4. Gallbladder disease with palpable lumps was maximally seen housewives, which is around 66.07%. Next common occupational was male cultivators constituting 10.71%. 32.2% of the case belonged to the lower middle class of society.

DISCUSSION

As per in Table 1. Overall the presentations of acute cases of gall bladder was more, than chronic and malignant, 29(44.62%), 23(41.07%), 4(4.40%). Table 2. In this series, cases ranged from 18 to 70 years. Maximal incidence in females was seen in the fifth decade, while the maximum incidence in males was seen in the fourth decade. The male to female ratio was 1:4.09 but in the malignant group the ratio is 1:3. Acute disease was common in the fifth decade in females. This could be due to the reason as the classical presentation of disease is *like fatty, fertile, female in forties*. These findings are in confirmation with Mallik IA (2003)¹². In Table 3: Gallbladder disease with palpable lumps was maximally seen housewives, which is around 66.07%. Next common occupational was male cultivators constituting 10.71%. 32.2% of the case belonged to the lower middle class of society. This could be due to the fact that the etiology of Gall bladder disease is mixed one having infections like Typhoid, Streptococcus, H. Pylori, Amoebiasis etc. So these infections are common in lower socio economic group. The reason of house wives being affected more is due to possibility obesity and high fat consumption in this groups. These finding are similar Dutta U (2005)¹³

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