

Reply to: 464-2008-283: Re: “Biochemical predictors for absence of common bile duct stones in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy” (2008; 22(7):1620–1624)

Ming-Hsun Yang · Yi-Ming Shyr

Published online: 27 February 2009
© Springer Science+Business Media, LLC 2009

Dear Editor

Thank you for your interest in our article. We hope that the following responses will answer your questions:

1. The purpose is to predict the *absence* of common bile duct (CBD) stones prior to laparoscopic cholecystectomy, instead of the *presence* of CBD stones. Therefore, all patients included in our study were presumed to have no CBD stones and obstruction before laparoscopic cholecystectomy; so, there should be no signs of CBD obstruction.
2. Certainly, ultrasonography was our first-choice diagnostic imaging study for simple gallstone disease, except under other special conditions such as for other

abdominal conditions not completely related to gallstone.

3. This was a retrospective study, so we could not tell exactly why the number of computed tomography (CT) scans was high. However, CT scan is definitely not our first-choice diagnostic tool for simple gallstone disease.
4. Sometimes, we did test total bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase twice if they were borderline abnormal. However, that was not our routine practice.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to reply the letter.

M.-H. Yang · Y.-M. Shyr (✉)
General Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital,
Taipei, Taiwan
e-mail: ymshyr@vghtpe.gov.tw

M.-H. Yang
e-mail: barrella.tw@yahoo.com.tw