Multidisciplinary Management of Common Bile Duct Stones

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Editors

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I would like to dedicate this textbook to all physicians (surgeons, gastroenterologists, and radiologists) who tirelessly care for patients, often at personal expense, as well as those who have participated in my training throughout the years and have given me the skills and knowledge to effectively treat patients. I would be remiss if I did not thank my colleagues in surgery who teach me something new every day, often commiserating with me after a long or difficult day. All the patients who allow me to operate on them or try novel techniques (sometimes unproven) are the ones who truly deserve thanks. Finally, I wish to thank my wife, Jeannie, and my daughters, Jessica and Jordan, who tolerate my long hours and fatigue in an effort to make a difference. Without their unwavering support, I would not be able to do anything discussed in the text.

Jeffrey W. Hazey

Foreword

Bile duct stones are not a new problem for surgeons. For decades, a direct open surgical approach to the bile duct was the only definitive therapy for this malady. With the advent of advanced endoscopic, radiologic, and minimally invasive surgical techniques, the treating physician is presented with a myriad of choices and decisions regarding the timing and approach to the stones. Furthermore, the introduction of new surgical procedures for the treatment of gastric disease and morbid obesity often has made access to the biliary tree challenging. In this book, the authors have endeavored to outline each of the techniques for imaging and treating common bile duct stones and to equitably assess the timing and value of each method. It is imperative for practicing surgeons and gastroenterologists to be familiar with the material presented herein in order to provide their patients with the safest and most effective care.

Cleveland, OH, USA

Jeffrey L. Ponsky

Preface

In some large academic medical centers, tradition and culture reign. These “traditions” often lead us to “silos” that exist between specialties, with little cross-fertilization. Often these “turf wars” create a lack of information transfer that ultimately results in inefficient care for patients, and some may argue, less quality care. I truly hope that by outlining a multidisciplinary approach to the management of common bile duct stones, I can educate readers on alternative methods to expand the options available to patients. Collective intelligence will always improve patient care along with increased professionalism between specialties. After all, if all you possess is a hammer, everything begins to look like a nail.

It is with tremendous gratitude I extend to my colleagues and patients who are deserving of the praise that ultimately led to the development of this textbook. As is often the case, this textbook is the work of several professional colleagues who tirelessly care for patients and “fight the good fight” every day, night, and weekend, with little regard for their personal lives. In a similar light, patients consent to sometimes invasive procedures that may put their lives and health at risk in an effort to ameliorate their suffering. It is the patients who allow us to perform sometimes less proven techniques in an effort to advance medical science and improve the quality of health care.

Columbus, OH, USA

Jeffrey W. Hazey

Contents

1 Historical Perspective and Treatments for Common Bile Duct Stones.....	1
Jeffrey W. Hazey	
2 Common Bile Duct Stones: Health Care Problem and Incidence.....	5
Joshua S. Winder and Eric M. Pauli	
3 Bile Duct Stones: Making the Radiologic Diagnosis.....	17
Sunny Jaiswal and Suresh Chamarthi	
4 Making the Diagnosis: Gastroenterology	27
Joshua R. Peck, Nicholas Latchana, Samer El-Dika, and Sheetal Sharma	
5 Making the Diagnosis: Surgery, a Rational Approach to the Patient with Suspected CBD Stones	37
Robert D. Fanelli and Brandon D. Andrew	
6 Percutaneous Biliary Access: Considerations, Techniques, and Complications	49
Bill S. Majdalany and James Spain	
7 Special Considerations for the Gastroenterologist.....	63
Veeral M. Oza and Marty M. Meyer	
8 Special Considerations for the Surgeon.....	67
Michael Paul Meara	
9 Percutaneous Methods of Common Bile Duct Stone Retrieval.....	77
Joshua D. Dowell, Jeffrey Weinstein, Annie Lim, and Gregory E. Guy	
10 Gastroenterologic Treatment and Outcomes.....	85
Mohammad H. Shakhathreh and J. Royce Groce	
11 Surgical Treatment and Outcomes	93
Ashwini Kumar and Jose M. Martinez	
12 Surgical Procedures to Prevent Recurrence.....	101
Edward L. Jones	

13 Management of Medical Complications of Gallstone Disease	113
Victorio Pidlaoan and Somashekar G. Krishna	
14 Management of Surgical Complications.....	129
Helmi Khadra, Terence Jackson, and Jeffrey Marks	
15 Special Considerations: Management of Common Bile Duct Stones in the Bariatric Patient	145
Teresa S. Jones and Vimal K. Narula	
16 Management of Choledocholithiasis in the Cirrhotic Patient.....	151
Eliza W. Beal and Sylvester M. Black	
17 Nonprocedural Management of Common Bile Duct Stones.....	161
Reshi C. Kanuru and Edward Levine	
Index.....	167

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