

Research Article

Management of Postoperative Bile Leak, Tertiary Centers Experience

Alaa A Redwan M.D, Ph.D*, Mohammed A Omar M.D

¹Surgery department, Sohag University, Egypt.

²Surgery department, South Valley University, Egypt.

***Corresponding author:** Alaa Ahmad Redwan, M.D., Ph.D., Prof. of HBP Surgery and Laparo-Endoscopy, Surgery Department, Sohag University Hospital, Sohag University, Sohag, Egypt. Tel: 01001988455; E-mail: ProfAlaaRedwan@Gmail.com.

Citation: Redwan AA and Omar MA (2017) Management of Postoperative Bile Leak, Tertiary Centers Experience. J Dig Dis Hepatol 2016: JDDH-122.

Received Date: 02 December, 2016; **Accepted Date:** 16 January, 2017; **Published Date:** 23 January, 2017

Abstract

Background and aim: Bile duct leak is an infrequent but serious disorder. The great majority occurs after hepatobiliary surgery. Early recognition and adequate multidisciplinary approach is the cornerstone for the optimal final outcomes. Traditionally, surgery has been the gold standard for the management of bile leak, but it is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Biliary endoscopic procedures have become the treatment of choice, as simple, noninvasive procedure, with low morbidity and mortality, short hospital stay, and cost effective, with demonstrated results comparable to those achieved with surgery. We aim to evaluate the optimal management of postoperative bile leak.

Methods and Material: In the period from January 2014 to October 2016, 155 patients with postoperative bile leak referred to our tertiary specialized centers were managed and evaluated.

Results: The definitive management of bile leak was done within 0-143 days. Patients were managed accordingly using endoscopy in 116 patients (plus percutaneous techniques in 4 patients) and surgery in 39 patients. The endoscopic treatment proved very effective in 94.7% of the patients with simple bile leak and 44.2% of the patients with complex bile leak.

Conclusion: Endoscopic treatment substituted surgery in all simple bile leak cases as a competitive treatment. Surgical treatment was the definitive treatment of complex bile leak; however endoscopy was a mandatory complementary tool in initial management.

Key words: Bile leak, post-operative, ERCP management

Introduction

Bile duct leak is an infrequent but serious disorder. The cause of bile duct leak can be either iatrogenic or more rarely, traumatic. [1] The great majority (95%) occurs after hepatobiliary surgery and the most common cause is related to open and laparoscopic cholecystectomy. [2] Biliary injury occur in 0.1 - 0.2 % and 0.3 - 0.8 % after open and laparoscopic cholecystectomy respectively. [3]

Postoperative bile leak is usually the result of oblivious injury to the bile ducts, inappropriate ligation of the cystic duct stump, or leakage from the liver bed or the drainage site and usually precipitated with a distal block from residual stones or strictures. [4] Minor leakage may stop spontaneously while major leakage may be a serious problem to the patient. [5] These patients present with

external or internal biliary leakage resulting in localized or generalized biliary peritonitis. [6] 11-23% of biliary injuries are diagnosed intraoperatively while the remaining is diagnosed postoperatively or after discharge. [7]

Early management in a specialized center is the cornerstone for satisfactory results. Inadequate management usually results in serious co-morbidities and a more difficult repair. [8] Surgery is the best method for the treatment, but it is associated with serious complications and great mortality. [9]

Preoperative management ranges from simple drainage and early transfer up to bilio-enteric anastomosis. [10] Minimally invasive endoscopic procedure with evidenced results equal to surgical outcomes became the treatment of choice. [9,11] As compared to surgery, endoscopic treatment may require many sessions, and is not effective in all cases. [12]

What is the best management (surgical versus endoscopic) of postoperative bile leak still the major challenging facing surgeons and this work presents the experience of four major tertiary referral centers in Egypt trying to answer this question.

Patients and Methods

155 patients suffering from postoperative bile leak referred to our centers during the period from January 2014 to October 2016, was enrolled in this study. We exclude patients with bile leak from trauma, rupture, associated biliary malignancy or vascular injury. History, clinical examination, and routine investigations (complete blood count, liver function tests, coagulation parameters and ultrasonography) were done for all patients. Computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was done in some selected cases. Bile leak was diagnosed clinically (abdominal pain, fever, distension, nausea, tenderness, jaundice) and radiologically (US and/or CT scan) and was re-confirmed by cholangiogram.[9]

Patients were classified simply according to cholangiographic and operative findings into two groups; simple bile leak (liver bed leak, cystic duct leak, accessory duct leak, and leak with partial laceration of the ductal system) and complex bile leak (duct transection, retained stone, stricture or anastomotic leak). Patients were managed gradually, starting with the minimally invasive (endoscopic treatment alone or with percutaneous technique) to the more invasive surgical technique. Some patients underwent a combination of these procedures. The study protocol was approved by the ethical committee of our hospitals. Also, a written informed consent was obtained from all the patients.

In cases with planned ERCP, when a considerable localized collection was defined, a radiologically guided drainage was done, while when the collection was large and diffuse, open or laparoscopic drainage was done, either before or after the procedure. For simple bile leak, patients underwent combined endoscopic sphincterotomy (ES) plus plastic stent (10F, 9-12 cm), straddling the site of the leak. For patients with bile leak and retained stones, a sphincterotomy, stone removal, and stent insertion was done. For patients with bile leak and duct stricture, dilatation and a plastic stent(s) was done. Repeat ERCP for assessment and stent removal was performed 2-3 months after improvement. Cholangiography was performed to confirm healing and absence of stricture or residual stones and they were managed accordingly. The percutaneous intervention was done in cases of failure of ERCP either in the form of percutaneous transhepatic drainage (PTC) prior surgery or a part of combined procedures (Rendezvous technique). Surgery was done either urgently (large and diffuse collection not suitable for percutaneous drainage) or electively (after failed or inappropriate nonsurgical tools treatment).

Follow up

Third generation cephalosporin antibiotics were given for all patients. Patients were discharged from the hospital with clinical and radiological improvement and they were followed up in the out-patient clinic.

Main outcome measurements

Successful management was defined by clinical and investigatory improvement and normal ERCP with stent removal with no further complications.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was made using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16. Descriptive data are expressed as mean - standard deviation or medians and ranges for continuous variables and as number and percent for categorical variables.

Results

From January 2014 to October 2016, 155 cases of postoperative bile leak were incorporated in this study. There were 70 male and 85 female. 21 cases (13.5%) were previously operated in our centers. The median time for the referral to our hospitals was 8 days (2-87 days) after the first operation. During this period 18 patients (11.6%) underwent one or more subsequent endoscopy or laparotomy. The amount of bile leak ranged from 100-880 ml/day, and the commonest site (56.1%) of external bile follow was the abdominal drain. 149 cases were diagnosed by cholangiogram while the remaining 6 cases were operated urgently without a cholangiogram. Patient's demographic data were shown in table 1.

Characteristics	No. (%)
Patients (M, F)	155 (70, 85)
Age Mean, Range	41.25, 18-73
Previous surgical procedure	
Open cholecystectomy	79 (50.9)
Lap cholecystectomy	34 (21.9)
Open cholecystectomy and exploration of CBD	24 (15.5)
Lap cholecystectomy and exploration of CBD	4 (2.6)
Hepatic resection	8 (5.2)
Whipple procedures	4 (2.6)
Liver abscess surgery	2 (1.3)
Site of external leak	
Surgical drain	87 (56.1)
Abdominal wound	38 (24.5)
T-tube tract	19 (12.3)
No external leak (Biloma)	11 (7.1)

Cholangiographic and operative findings	
Simple bile leak	94 (60.6)
Complex bile leak	61(39.4)
Bile leak with stone(s)	33 (21.4)
Bile leak with stricture	12 (7.7)
Bile leak with duct transection	12 (7.7)
Anastomotic leak	4 (2.6)

Table 1: Patients data.

Management

18 patients were initially treated before referral either endoscopically (3 cases) or surgically (15 cases). The definitive management was done within 0-143 days (median 8 days) after the injury. Treatment was done either by ERCP alone or in combination with the percutaneous technique in some cases or surgically (Table 2).

Type of bile leak	ERCP No. (%)	PTC and ERCP No. (%)	Surgery No. (%)	Total No. (%)
Simple bile leak	86 (91.5)	3 (3.2)	5 (5.3)	94 (60.6)
Complex bile leak	26 (42.6)	1 (1.6)	34 (55.8)	61 (39.4)
Bile leak with bile duct transection	0	0	12 (100)	12 (7.7)
Bile leak with stone(s)	20 (70)	0	13 (30)	33 (21.4)
Bile leak with stricture	6 (50)	1 (8.3)	5 (41.7)	12 (7.7)
Anastomotic leak	0	0	4 (100)	4 (2.6)
Total	112 (72.2)	4 (2.6)	39 (25.2)	155 (100)

Table 2: Definitive management of bile duct injury.

Simple bile leak (94 patients)

93 patients were subjected firstly to endoscopic treatment. Successful management was achievable in 89 cases (3 cases assisted with the percutaneous route) and failure to control the leak after a reasonable time occurred in 4 patients where they managed surgically. The last case was subjected firstly to urgent surgery due to biliary peritonitis.

Endoscopic treatment exhibited a 94.7% success rate. The leak was controlled in all patients in a mean period of 3.7 (range 1-19) days. The number of ERCP sessions: mean 1.1 (range 1-3). Percutaneous drainage of bile collections was performed in 11 patients (before ERCP in 8 patients, after ERCP in 3 patients).

Complex bile leak (61 patients)

27 cases (44.2%) were managed endoscopically while 34 patients (55.8%) were managed surgically.

Bile leak with complete transection of the bile ducts (12 patients)

These patients managed surgically (2 cases urgently and 10 cases electively) with Roux-en-Y hepatico-jejunostomy and choledocho-duodenostomy as a reconstructive repair. Bile collections was initially drained percutaneously (2 cases) or surgically (2 cases), to stabilize the patient's condition in cases with removed or slipped drain.

Bile leak with stone (33 patients)

From 28 patients who were subjected firstly to ERCP, 20 patients were managed definitively with ES, stone extraction, and biliary stent while the remaining 8 cases were managed initially with ES and biliary stent due to intra-hepatic stones, or hugely dilated CBD requiring drainage. After cessation of bile leak, these patients were treated definitively with reconstructive surgery. The other 5 cases were managed firstly by urgent surgery due to biliary peritonitis in the form of choledocholithotomy and repair over T-tube (4 cases) and peritoneal drainage followed by elective HJ (1 case).

The number of ERCP sessions: mean 1.6 (range 1-3). Percutaneous drainage of bile collections was performed in 3 patients (before ERCP in 2 patients, after ERCP in 1 patient).

Bile leak with stricture (12 cases)

11 patients were subjected firstly to ERCP. Endoscopic treatment was successful in 7 cases (1 cases assisted with percutaneous route), and 4 cases were failed dilatation to enough size (8 Fr). They were managed with percutaneous trans-hepatic drainage and elective surgical treatment in the form of HJ after 2-3 months. The last case was managed urgently by drainage followed by elective HJ.

Drainage of bile collections was performed in 3 patients, all before (2 patients) or during initial treatment (1 patient). The number of ERCP procedures: mean 2.7 (range 1-5).

Anastomotic leak (4 cases)

They were treated with redo the anastomosis (HJ), 1 cases urgently and 3 cases electively after drainage (percutaneous = 1 case, surgical = 2 cases).

Surgical treatment for bile leak (Tables 3&4)

Definitive surgical treatment was done within 36 days (range 1-98) from injury in 39 patients with 46 surgical procedures.

Type of leak	Urgent Surgery		Elective Surgery
	Preliminary	Definitive	Definitive
Simple leak	0	1	4
Complex leak			
Bile leak with bile duct transection	2	2	10
Bile leak with stone(s)	1	4	9
Bile leak with stricture	1	0	5
Anastomotic leak	2	1	3

Table 3: Type and time of surgery.

Surgical treatment for bile leak	No.
Drainage and peritoneal toileting only for biliary peritonitis	7
Drainage, and CBD repair over T-tube	3
Drainage, Choledocholithotomy and repair over T-tube	4
Drainage, ligation of slipped cystic duct ligature	1
Drainage, ligation of accessory duct	1
Bilio-enteric anastomosis	
• Hepatico- jejunostomy	28
• Choledocho-duodenostomy	2
Total	46

Table 4: Surgical procedures for bile leak.

Type of leakage	Endoscopic maneuver			Surgical maneuver		
	Early Morbidity	Late Morbidity	Mortality	Early Morbidity	Late Morbidity	Mortality
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Simple bile leak (89,5)	8 (9%)	2 (2.2%)	0 (0)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	0
Complex bile leak (27,34)	5 (18.5%)	4 (14.8)	1 (3.7%)	14 (41.2%)	5 (14.7%)	2 (5.9%)
Bile duct transection	0	0	0	5 (14.7%)	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)
Bile leak with stone	2 (7.4%)	2 ()	0	5 (14.7%)	2 (5.9%)	0
Bile leak with stricture	3 (11.1%)	2 ()	0	2 (5.9%)	1 (2.9%)	0
Anastomotic leak	0	0	1	2 (5.9%)	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)
Total	13 (11.2%)	6 (5.2%)	1 (0.9%)	15 (38.5%)	6 (15.4%)	2 (5.1%)

Table 5: Follow-Up and Complications.

Grade	Endoscopic maneuver		Surgical maneuver	
	Complication	NO. (%)	Complication	NO. (%)
I	Fever	1 ()	wound infection	3 (3.8)
II	PEP	4 ()	wound infection,	3 ()
	Cholangitis,	4 ()	cholangitis,	2 ()
	UTI,	1 ()	pneumonia,	2 ()
			paralytic ileus,	1 ()
IIIa			DVT	1 ()
	Leakage,	1 (1.3)	stricture	2 ()
	stricture,	2 (1.3)	abscess,	1 ()
	Basket trapping	1 (0.4)	cholangitis	1 ()
IIIb	Stricture	4 (1.7)	Pleural effusion.	1 ()
			stricture	2 ()
			incisional hernia,	1 ()
			Abscess.	2 ()
			Primary hemorrhage,	1 ()
			bowel obstruction,	1 ()
IV a	ARDS	1 (0.4)	ARDS	1 ()

IVb		0	Septic shock with multiorgan failure	1 ()
V	Sever Arrhythmia	1 (0.4)	Pulmonary embolism	1 ()
			septic shock	1 ()
Total		20		28
PEP- post ERCP pancreatitis; UTI- urinary tract infection; ARDS- acute respiratory distress syndrome; DVT- deep venous thrombosis				

Table 6: Dindo classification of postoperative complications (morbidity and mortality).

Treatment outcomes

The mean time from diagnosis to cure was 5.6 ±3 days (range 4-17 days) in the endoscopic group and 66 ±35 days (range 7-105 days) in the surgical group (Table 7).

Treatment outcomes	Endoscopic maneuver	Surgical maneuver	P value
Time from diagnosis to cure (Mean ± SD)	5.6 ± 3 days (Range 4-17 days)	66 ± 35 days (Range 7-105 days)	<0.0001

Hospital stay (Mean ± SD)	5 ± 2 days (Range 3-11 days)	14.5 ± 6 days (Range 3-31 days)	<0.001
No. of re-intervention (Mean ± SD)	1.34 ± 0.494 (Range 1-3)	1.19 ± 0.395	0.78
Morbidity	19 (16.4%)	21 (53.9%)	<0.001
Mortality	1 (0.9%)	2 (5.1%)	<0.01

Table 7: Treatment outcomes.

Discussion

The incidence of postoperative bile leak cannot be assessed accurately as many cases may heal spontaneously.[14] Postoperative bile leak usually occurs from the liver bed or bile duct injury,[15] as a result of pressure gradient created by the sphincter of Oddi.[16] The commonest cause of postoperative bile leak was post-cholecystectomy and the commonest site was the cystic duct stump, and this was comparable with the previously published results.[17] Cholangiogram was the standard method of the diagnosis in most cases, however, the leak was minimal and not evident in 5 cases, such cases may heal spontaneously according to the literature.[18] Treatment options available for bile leak include surgical repair, percutaneous biliary drainage, and endoscopic biliary drainage.[10] It is important to select the appropriate therapeutic approaches according to the setting. Resorting to surgery as a primary approach for therapy should not be the standard practice. On the other hand, strict adherence to a conservative approach, which employs non-surgical methods and excludes surgery, is associated with an obligatory 9% conversion to surgery at an advanced stage of the disease, together with a mortality rate of 3.5%.[19] Surgery may be required for 2 goals: 1) drainage of collections in uncontrolled fistulas, and 2) definitive treatment. Two reasons place drainage as an early essential step: Firstly, an intra-abdominal collection may predispose to serious septic complications unless promptly drained and secondly, final repair should not be attempted at this early stage, since the affected bile duct(s) are collapsed, friable and are usually embedded within a severe local inflammatory reaction. As a definitive therapy, surgery is indicated when: 1) there is no bilio-enteric continuity, 2) failure of non-surgical methods with bilio-enteric continuity, and 3) surgery is the primary line of treatment for an associated pathology, e.g. malignancy. [20] Earlier, bile leak has been treated by surgical repair, and it is associated with high morbidity (22-37%) and mortality (3-18%). [17] Also percutaneous trans hepatic biliary drainage carries a high morbidity rate owing to hemorrhage and bile leak related to liver puncture.[21]

Endoscopic therapy became the standard method for definitive treatment of postoperative bile leak,[22] in the form of nasobiliary drainage (NBD), sphincterotomy, or stent insertion, [23,24] with no consensus regarding optimal endoscopic intervention.[23-

27] The principle of endoscopic techniques is the abolition or reduction of the pressure gradient and bile diversion away from the site of injury, resulting in the closure of the fistula.[28]

We follow the policy of crossing the stent above the site of the leak with the conflicting results [29,30] regarding the strategy of stent insertion, There are no evidenced data regarding the optimal number, diameter, shape, type and length of stent necessary for optimal treatment of postoperative bile leak.[31-33] we did not use NBD because of patient's discomfort and this agrees with many papers.[29]

In cases with simple bile leak, endoscopic treatment was very effective in the treatment of 94.7% of patients though 11.7% required combined external drainage and these results were comparable with those published by many authors.[34-36] We can say that endoscopic treatment replaced surgery in all simple bile leak cases as a competitive definitive treatment.

In cases with complex bile leak, endoscopic treatment was less effective in comparison to surgical treatment (44.2% vs. 55.8%). Although, endoscopic treatment proved effective in 70 % and 58.3 % of cases with bile leak associated with retained stone or stricture respectively, it has many defects: 1) generally, it is less effective than in case of a simple bile leak; 2) the duration may be very long; 3) stent complications; and 4) long-term follow-up which may be not done. Thus on contrast of many reports[37-38] we can say that surgery is the preferable treatment for cases with bile leak associated with retained stone or stricture only in surgically suitable patients.

Many recent studies concluded that there was no role for endoscopic treatment in patients with transected CBD or anastomotic leak.[9,28] Similarly, our results showed that surgical treatment was the only definitive treatment of such problems; however endoscopy was a mandatory integral tool in the initial management either alone, or with percutaneous techniques. Without doubt, surgery has its associated morbidity and mortality, prerequisites, and necessary facilities.

The overall successful endoscopic treatment was 74.8% with variable rates for each problem and this was comparable with different reports detecting variable endoscopic success ranging from 78-94% of cases.[39-41]

Roux-en-Y hepaticojejunostomy is the best biliary reconstruction procedure, [42] however, choledochorrhaphy over T-tube and choledocho-duodenostomy were also indicated in some cases. [42,43] Unlikely these operations are so complex and advanced, particularly when the anastomosis is done on a normal duct that is technically very difficult especially with the associated fibrosis and infection.[44] Early surgical reconstruction can be done after proper assessment and before the spread of infection, however, most cases present late, where surgery is very difficult but still

may be done.

Early referral to specialized centers with expert surgeons results in a better surgical outcomes.[45,46] Complications occurred in 72.3% of patients treated early versus 27.7% of patients treated electively. Also, 73.3% complication rate was encountered in patients initially treated before their referral in comparison to 38.8% in patients treated initially in our centers by experienced hepatobiliary surgeons. For these results, it is better to refer such patients early to a specialized center with expert surgeons.[44] The outcome of surgical treatment is affected by many factors,[47] but our series is too small to perform a multivariate analysis for their evaluation.

Conclusion

Endoscopic treatment replaced surgery in all simple postoperative bile leak cases as an identical definitive treatment. Surgical treatment was the definitive treatment of complex postoperative bile leakage; however endoscopy was a mandatory complementary tool in the initial management. Early referral to tertiary care centers with expertise in hepatobiliary surgery may limit further morbidity and mortality.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not for profit sectors.

Acknowledgment:

We express our appreciation to all staff members of general surgery department, and GIT endoscopy center, Sohag University hospitals, and South Valley University hospitals, Egypt; for their help during the conduct of this study.

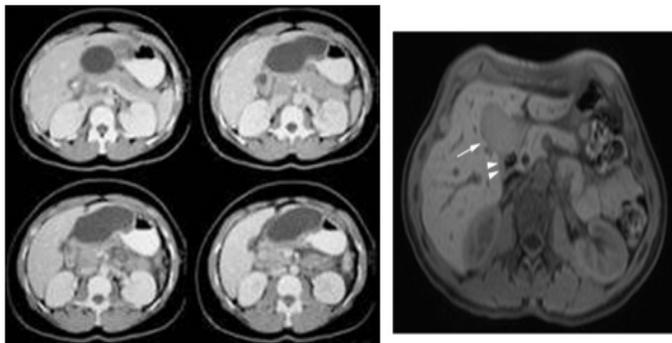


Figure 1: Post cholecystectomy leakage and biloma collection as seen by CT (left) and MRI (right).

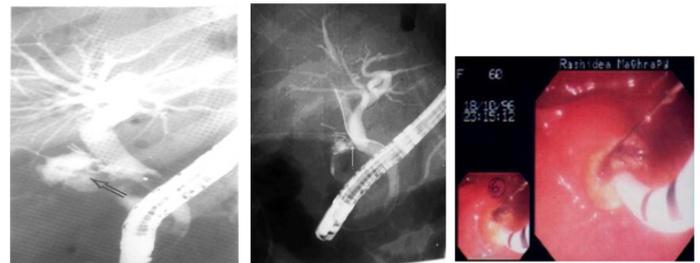


Figure 2: Cystic duct leakage evident by ERCP, treated by sphincterotomy.

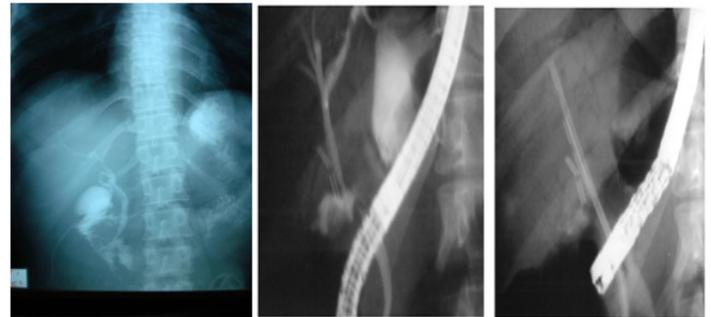


Figure 3: Minor CBD laceration evident by ERCP, treated by sphincterotomy and stenting.

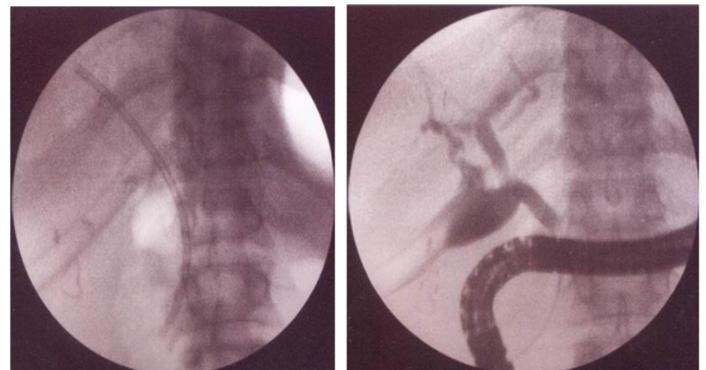


Figure 4: Minor to major CBD laceration leakage, treated by ERCP sphincterotomy and stenting.

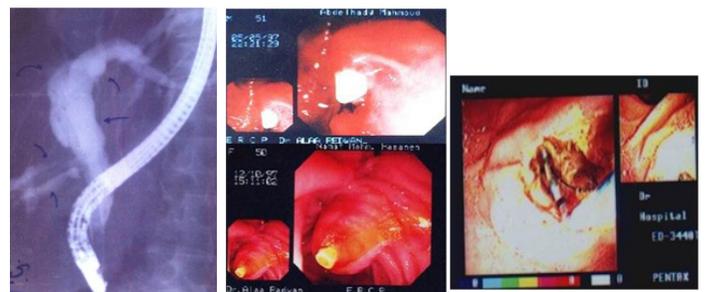


Figure 5: Leakage around T-tube due to tube misplacement and papillitis; treated by tube extraction and sphincterotomy

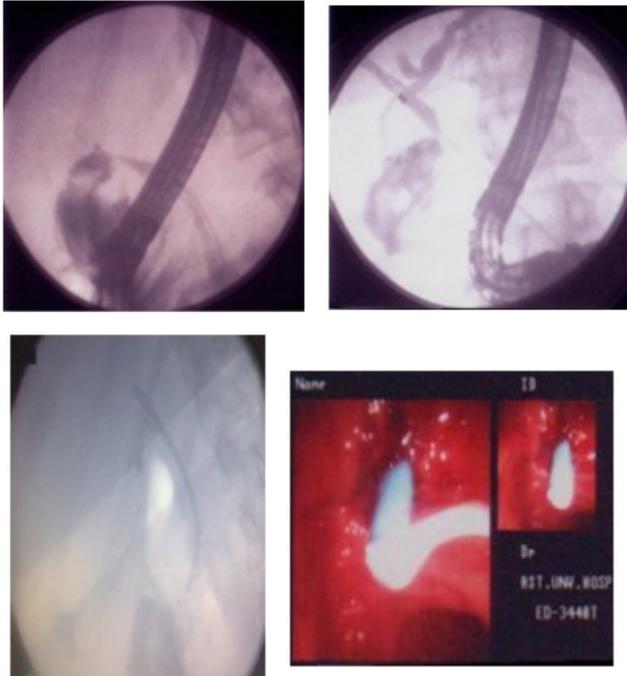


Figure 6: Major CBD laceration leakage with ERCP success. The stent effluxing pus.

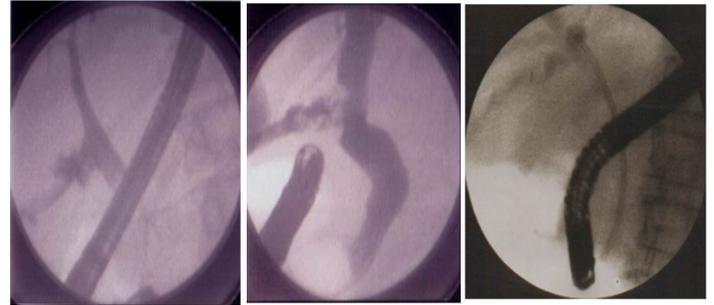


Figure 9: Partial CBD transection injury; sometimes successfully treated by ERCP and straddling stent.

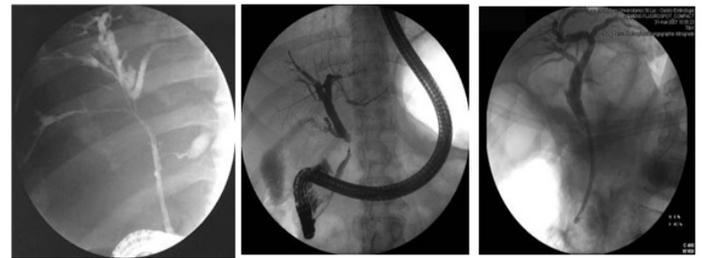


Figure 10: delayed leakage with stricture/fistula formation (left), Rt. And Lt. peritoneal abscesses (middle); ERCP trial by dilation and stenting.



Figure 7: Leakage due to distal CBD obstruction by stones; endoscopic treatment by sphincterotomy and stone retrieval by basket or balloon.

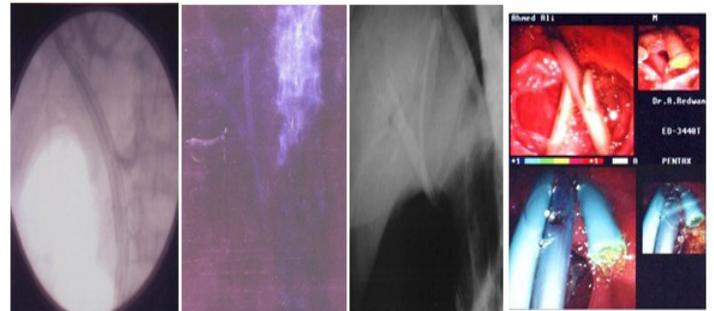


Figure 11: Stents applied for CBD injury was upgraded in size and number as 2,3 or more CBD stents.

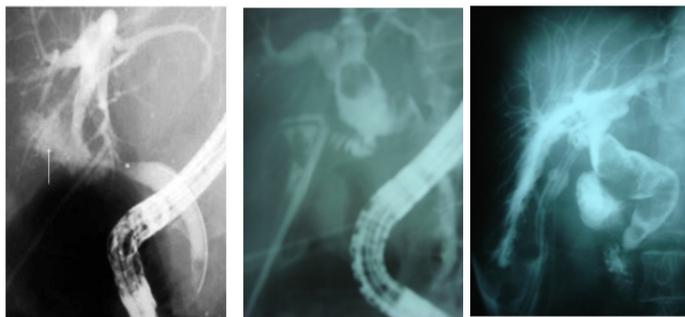


Figure 8: major leakage associated with mid CBD stricture (left), stone hepatic duct (middle), and distal CBD obstruction by clotted blood due to hemobilia.

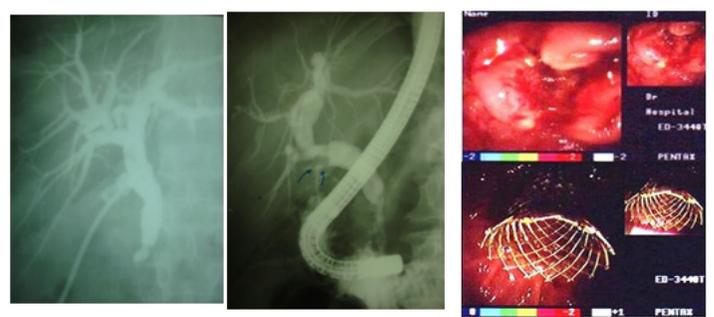


Figure 12: Major leakage due to distal CBD obstruction proved to be inoperable malignant stricture; treated endoscopically by self expandable metal stent.

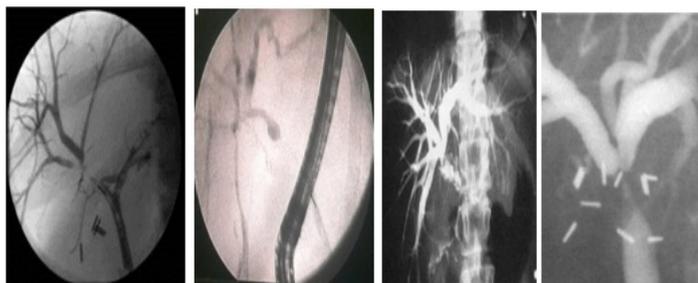


Figure 13: Complex injury cannot be negotiated endoscopically as Rt. Anterior duct injury (left), Rt. sectorial duct injury, massive CBD laceration in the portahepatis (middle), CBD transection with loss segment (right).

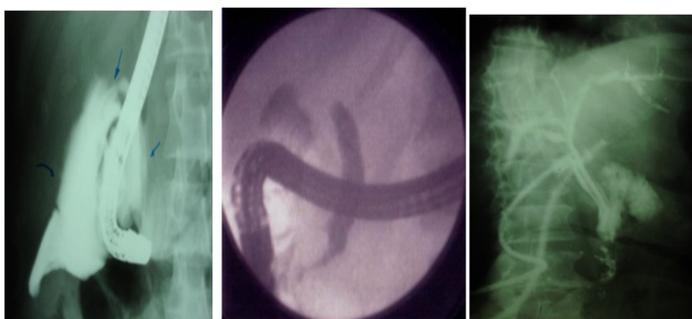


Figure 14: Complex injury cannot be negotiated endoscopically as massive CBD transection injury with loss of CBD continuity (left, middle), and leakage with suspected duodenal injury.

References

- Pioche M and Ponchon T (2013) Management of bile duct leaks. *Journal of Visceral Surgery* 150: 33-38.
- Chinnery GE, Krige JEJ, Bornman PC, Bernon MM, Al-Harethi S et al. (2013) Endoscopic management of bile leaks after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *S Afr J Surg* 51: 116-121.
- Karvonen J, Gullichsen R, Laine S, Salminen P, Grönroos JM (2007) Bile duct injuries during laparoscopic cholecystectomy: primary and long-term results from a single institution. *Surg Endosc* 21: 1069-1073.
- Davids PHP, Rauws EAJ, Tytgat GNJ, Huibregtse K (1992) Postoperative bile leakage: endoscopic management. *Gut* 33: 1118-1122.
- Mortensen J and Kruse A (1992) Endoscopic management of postoperative bile leak. *Br J Surg* 79: 1339-1341.
- Collins PG and Gorey TF (1984) Iatrogenic biliary stricture: presentation and management. *Br J Surg* 71: 900-902.
- Way LW, Stewart L, Gantert W, Liu K, Lee CM et al. (2003) Causes and prevention of laparoscopic bile duct injuries: analysis of 252 cases from a human factors a cognitive psychology perspective. *Annals of Surgery* 237: 460-469.
- Rauws EAJ and Gouma DJ (2004) Endoscopic and surgical management of bile duct injury after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Gastroenterology* 18: 829-846.
- Agarwal N, Sharma BC, Garg S, Kumar R, Sarin SK (2006) Endoscopic management of postoperative bile leaks. *HepatobiliaryPancreat Dis Int* 5: 273-277.
- De Reuver PR, Busch ORC, Rauws EAJ, Lameris JS, Van Gulik THM et al. (2007) Long-term results of a primary end-to-end anastomosis in peroperative detected bile duct injury. *J Gastrointest Surg* 11: 296-302.
- Singh V, Narasimhan KL, Verma GR, Singh G (2007) Endoscopic management of traumatic hepatobiliary injuries. *J GastroenterolHepatol* 22: 1205-1209.
- Chaudhary A (2006) Treatment of post-cholecystectomy bile duct strictures-- push or sidestep? *Indian J Gastroenterol* 25: 199-201.
- Dindo D, Demartines N, Clavien PA (2004) Classification of Surgical Complications a new proposal with evaluation in a cohort of 6336 patients and results of a survey. *Ann Surg* 240: 205-213.
- Bergman GHM, van den Brink GR, Rauws EAJ, de Wit L, Obertop H et al. (1996) Treatment of bile duct lesions after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Gut* 38: 141-147.
- McMahon AJ, Fullarton G, Baxter JN, O'Dwyer PJ (1995) Bile duct injury and bile leakage in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Br J Surg* 82: 307-313.
- Barkun AN, Rezieg M, Mehta SN, Pavone E, Landry S et al. (1997) Post cholecystectomy biliary leaks in the laparoscopic era: risk factors, presentation, and management. *Gastrointest Endosc* 45: 277-282.
- Browder IW, Dowling JB, Koontz KK, Litwin MS (1987) Early management of operative injuries of the extrahepatic biliary tract. *Ann Surg* 205: 649-658.
- Mehta SN, Pavone E, Barkun JS, Cortas GA, Barkun AN (1997) A review of the management of post-cholecystectomy biliary leaks during the laparoscopic era. *Am J Gastroenterol* 92: 1262-1267.
- Chen XP, Peng SY, Peng CH, Liu YB, Shi LB et al. (2002) A ten-year study on non-surgical treatment of postoperative bile leakage. *World J Gastroenterol* 8: 937-942.
- Czerniak A: External biliary fistula. In Blumgart LH and Fong Y (eds). *Surgery of the liver and Biliary tract* 3rd ed. Vol. 1, Edinburgh Churchill Livingstone, 2000.
- Von Sonnenberg E, Giovana C, Wittich GR, Christensen R, Varney RR et al. (1990) The role of interventional radiology for one complications of cholecystectomy. *Surgery* 107: 632-638.
- Neuhaus H (1998) The future of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography: what is necessary and what should be improved. *Endoscopy* 30: 207-211.
- Mavrogiannis C, Liatsos C, Papanikolaou IS, Karagiannis S, Galanis P et al. (2006) Biliary stenting alone versus biliary stenting plus sphincterotomy for the treatment of post-laparoscopic cholecystectomy biliary leaks: A prospective randomized study. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 18: 405-409.
- Dumonceau JM, Tringali A, Blero D, Devière J, Laugier Ret al. (2012) Biliary stenting: Indications, choice of stents and results: European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) clinical guideline. *Endoscopy* 44: 277-298.
- Singh V, Singh G, Verma GR, Gupta R (2010) Endoscopic management of postcholecystectomy biliary leakage. *HepatobiliaryPancreat*

- Dis Int 9: 409-413.
26. Ghazanfar S, Qureshi S, Leghari A, Taj MA, Niaz SK (2012) Endoscopic management of post operative bile duct injuries. *JPMA* 62: 257-262.
 27. Aksoz K, Unsal B, Yoruk G, Buyrac Z, Haciyanli M et al. (2009) Endoscopic sphincterotomy alone in the management of low-grade biliary leaks due to cholecystectomy. *Dig Endosc* 21: 158-161.
 28. Chandrasekar TS, Hameed H, Murugesh M (2012) Endoscopic management of biliary injuries and leaks. *Journal of Digestive Endoscopy* 3: 27-34.
 29. Perera MT, Silva MA, Hegab B, Muralidharan V, Bramhall S et al. (2011) Specialist early and immediate repair of post-laparoscopic cholecystectomy bile duct injuries is associated with an improved long-term outcome. *Ann Surg* 253: 553-560.
 30. Kaffes AJ, Hourigan L, De Luca N, Byth K, Williams SJ et al. (2005) Impact of endoscopic intervention in 100 patients with suspected postcholecystectomy bile leak. *Gastrointest Endosc* 61: 269-275.
 31. Katsinelos P, Kountouras J, Paroutoglou G, Chatzimavroudis G, Germanidis G et al. (2008) A comparative study of 10-Fr vs. 7-Fr straight plastic stents in the treatment of postcholecystectomy bile leak. *Surg Endosc* 22: 101-106.
 32. Donnellan F, Zeb F, Courney G, Aftab AR (2009) Successful outcome of sphincterotomy and 7 French pigtail stent insertion in the management of post-cholecystectomy bile leaks. *HepatobiliaryPancreat Dis Int* 8: 309-311.
 33. Canena L, Liberato M, Horta D, Romão C, Coutinho A (2013) Short-term stenting using fully covered self-expanding metal stents for treatment of refractory biliary leaks, post-sphincterotomy bleeding, and perforations. *Surg Endosc* 27: 313-324.
 34. Kozarek RA and Traverso LW (1991) Endoscopic stent placement for cystic duct leak after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Gastrointest Endosc* 37: 71-73.
 35. Kozarek RA, Ball TJ, Patterson DJ, Brandarbur JJ, Raltz S et al. (1994) Endoscopic treatment of biliary injury in the era of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Gastrointest Endosc* 40: 10-6.
 36. Weber A, Feussner H, Winkelmann F, Siewert JR, Schmid RM et al. (2009) Long-term outcome of endoscopic therapy in patients with bile duct injury after cholecystectomy. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 24: 762-769.
 37. Al-Karawi MA and Sanai FM (2002) Endoscopic management of bile duct injuries in 107 patients: Experience of a Saudi referral center. *Hepatogastroenterology* 49: 1201-1207.
 38. Draganov P, Hoffman B, Marsh W, Cotton P, Cunningham J (2002) Longterm outcome in patients with benign biliary strictures treated endoscopically with multiple stents. *Gastrointest Endosc* 55: 680-686.
 39. Davids PHP, Tanaka AKF, Rouws EAJ (1993) Benign biliary strictures: surgery or endoscopy? *Ann Surg* 217: 237-243.
 40. Walden D, Rajjman I, Fuchs S (1993) Long term follow-up of endoscopic stenting (ES) for benign post-operative bile duct strictures (BPBDS). *Gastrointest Endosc* 39: 335.
 41. Cuschieri A, Croce E, Fag-Gioni A (1996) EAES ductal stone study: preliminary finding of multicenter prospective randomized trial comparing two-stage versus single stage management. *Surg Endosc* 10: 1130-1135.
 42. Roslyn JJ and Zinner MJ (1994) Gall bladder and extrahepatic biliary system. In: Schwartz SI, Shires GT, Spencer FC, et al, eds. *Principles of Surgery*. 6th ed. New York: MC Graw-Hill, Inc 1367-1391.
 43. Cuschieri A (1995) The biliary tract. In: Cuschieri A, Giles GR, Mossa AR, eds. *Essential Surgical Practice*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd 1175-1237.
 44. Pleass HCC and Garden OJ (1998) Bile duct injury: prevention and management. In: Johnson CD, Taylor I. *Recent Advances in Surgery*. 21st ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone 1-16.
 45. Melton GB and Lillemoe KD (2002) The current management of post-operative bile duct strictures. *Adv Surg* 36: 193-221.
 46. Sicklick JK, Camp MS, Lillemoe KD, Melton GB, Yeo CJ et al. (2005) surgical management of bile duct injuries sustained during laparoscopic cholecystectomy: Perioperative results in 200 patients. *ANN Surg* 241: 786-795.
 47. Flum DR, Cheadle A, Prela C, Dellinger P, Chan L (2003) Bile duct injury during cholecystectomy and survival in medicare beneficiaries. *JAMA* 290: 2168-2173.