

Gallbladder polyps, surgical indications according to their size and morphology

Abstract

A case is presented of a 40 years old female with gallbladder polyp with an early adenocarcinoma.

Keywords: Gallbladder polyp, early gallbladder adenocarcinoma

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Case

A 40 years old female patient is studied by vague symptoms, on ultrasonography of the gallbladder, vesicular polyp 15 mm in diameter was found (Figure 1). Laboratory tests, and upper Endoscopy were normal. A laparoscopic cholecystectomy was done. The pathologic examination showed a superficial mucosal adenocarcinoma without infiltration of the rest of the wall of the gallbladder. The outcome was good.

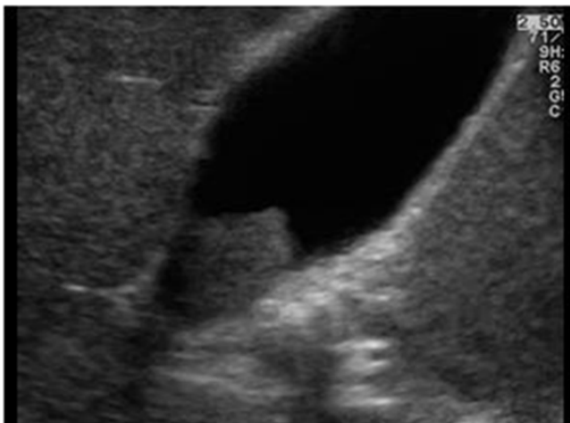


Figure 1 A large and irregular polyp, 15 mm in diameter in the gallbladder neck.

Discussion

When doing an ultrasound of the gallbladder and find unique or multiple polyps leads to the question what is the most appropriate behaviour. The gallbladder polyps are pre-malignant lesions and there are reports that the size limits 10 mm in diameter as an indication of cholecystectomy.¹⁻⁵ Ultrasound of the gallbladder is a routine study in the evaluation of patients with or without symptoms, which allows the diagnosis of these lesions in asymptomatic people. If polyps are small, with a size less than 10 mm, it is recommended periodic monitoring for every 4-6 months and measure on each test and observe its structure and shape Figure (2 & 3). If increase in size or change in its morphology, should be suspected malignancy and cholecystectomy should be indicated,⁶ but if the size is greater than 10 mm and is irregular in the first examination, cholecystectomy should be done

without waiting, because there is a 88 % chance to be a gallbladder carcinoma⁷ (Figure 4). The cancer of the gallbladder that causes symptoms is usually an advanced lesion with a poor prognosis and no curative treatment. We therefore recommend that the gallbladder polyp 10 mm or more in diameter, should undergo laparoscopic cholecystectomy and thus the local dissemination of a possible early tumor lesion is avoided.⁸⁻²¹

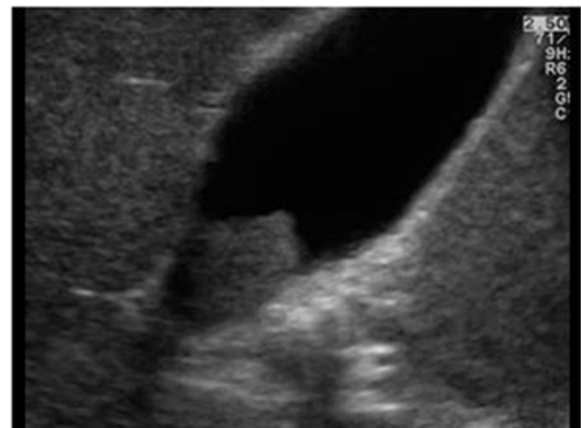


Figure 2 Several small polyps in the gallbladder.

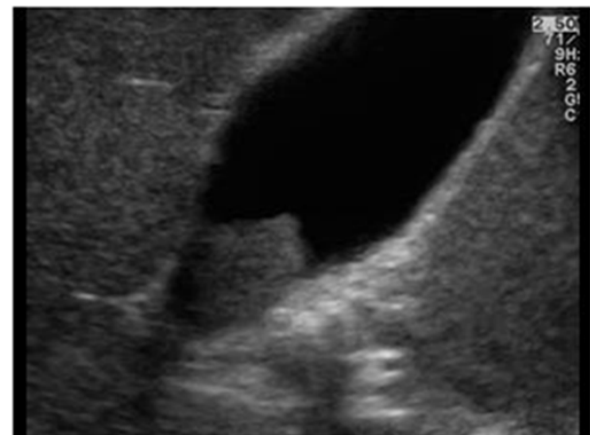


Figure 3 An unique and small polyp in the gallbladder, 8 mm in diameter.

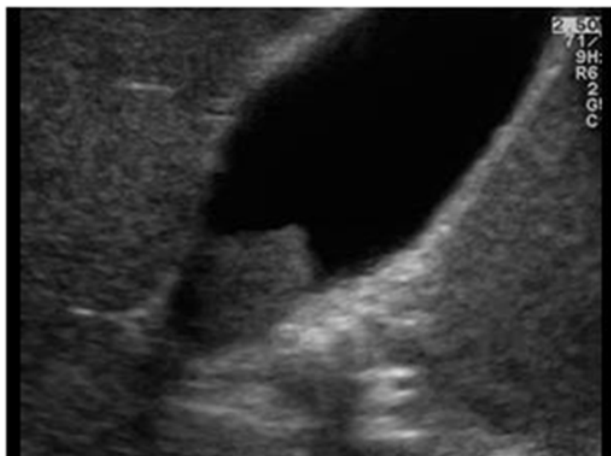


Figure 4 A greater polyp in the gallbladder, 12 mm in diameter.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest.

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