

READMISSIONS AFTER CHOLECYSTECTOMY IN A TERTIARY UK CENTER: INCIDENCE, CAUSES AND BURDEN

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Background: Although cholecystectomy is a widely performed procedure, postoperative readmissions place a heavy burden on healthcare facilities. This study assesses the incidence, causes and burden of 30-day readmissions after cholecystectomy in a tertiary UK center.

Methods and Material: Information was obtained from our prospectively maintained database and hospital's computerised records. The readmissions episodes were thoroughly studied to assess the cause of readmission, investigations obtained and their findings, interventions required and the hospital stay on readmission.

Results:

- Out of the 1,140 cholecystectomies performed over this time, there were 75 true readmissions and 29 revisits; thus, the actual readmission rate is 6.58%.
- Non-specific abdominal pain ± deranged liver function tests (LFT) is the most common cause of readmission at (38;36.54%) cases, followed by (18;17.31%) wound infections and (12;11.54%) collections/bile leaks/abscess.
- This costed the center 93 scans; 30 procedures and 295 days of hospital stay.

Table 2. Burden: Imaging and Interventions

| Imaging Modality (n = 93) | NO |
|--|----|
| CT | 48 |
| US | 24 |
| MRCP | 19 |
| US doppler | 1 |
| MRI | 1 |
| Interventions (n = 30) | NO |
| ERCP | 9 |
| Lap drainage + washout + drains | 8 |
| Wound I&D + debridement | 4 |
| US drainage | 3 |
| Lap CBD exploration | 1 |
| Right hemicolectomy | 1 |
| Lap hernia repair | 1 |
| Lap excision of cystic duct stump | 1 |
| Referred to HBP | 1 |
| Dilatation of drain tract and drainage of bile | 1 |

Conclusions: Non-specific abdominal pain ± deranged LFT is the most common cause of readmissions/revisits in the center. Readmissions after a cholecystectomy are a significant encumbrance.

Table 1. Breakdown of Reasons for Revisits and True Readmissions

| Revisits | | | True Readmissions | | |
|--|-----------|-------|--|-----------|-------|
| Reason | NO | % | Reason | NO | % |
| Wound infection | 12 | 41.38 | Non-specific abdominal pain ± deranged LFT | 29 | 38.67 |
| Non-specific abdominal pain ± deranged LFT | 9 | 31.03 | Collection/bile leaks/abscess | 12 | 16.00 |
| Planned (2 OGD – 2 review of bloods) | 4 | 13.79 | Wound infection | 6 | 8.00 |
| Constipation | 1 | 3.45 | Missed stones/collections | 6 | 8.00 |
| Port site bruising and pain | 1 | 3.45 | Constipation | 3 | 4.00 |
| Night sweat | 1 | 3.45 | Planned | 2 | 2.67 |
| UTI | 1 | 3.45 | Urine retention | 2 | 2.67 |
| Total | 29 | | Collection + wound infection | 2 | 2.67 |
| | | | Vomiting | 2 | 2.67 |
| | | | Liver and port site hematoma | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Pancreatitis | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Superficial vein thrombosis | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Bowel obstruction | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Nausea | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Pyelonephritis | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Leaking drain | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Port site hernia + wound infection | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Infected pseudocyst | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | CHD stricture + bile leak | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Wound bleeding | 1 | 1.33 |
| | | | Total | 75 | |

