PREOPERATIVE EVALUATION OF THE RISK OF COMMON BILE DUCT STONES

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Introduction: The presence of common bile duct stones cannot be predicted by the patient's medical history, physical exam, evaluation by abdominal sonogram and CT scan or liver function tests. The purpose of this study is to establish the statistical probability of common bile duct stones by ERCP in both normal liver function tests and elevated liver function tests.

Methods: A total of 101 complete charts were reviewed with the following parameters noted: Pre-ERCP liver function tests including ALT/ AST/Alk Phos/Bilirubin Total and Direct, and ERCP findings including the presence or absence of stones/CBD size/ abnormalities in the papilla, cystic duct and pancreatic duct.

Results: Pre- ERCP labs and ERCP findings were obtained for 101 patients. 75 patients were female and 26 male. The age range was from 18 to 91 yrs old. 78 patients were found to have one or more abnormal value in liver chemistries. Of these patients, 21 (26.9%) had stones in the common bile duct, 51 patients (65.4%) did not show stones. 5 patients had common bile duct that could not be cannulated. 23 patients had normal liver chemistries. Of these 3 patients (13%) had stone in the common bile duct, 16 patients (69.9%) did not show stones 4 patients had common bile duct that could not be cannulated. In all, the cannulation rate was 91.1%.

Conclusion:

1. Normal LFT's does not guarantee absence of CBD stone.
2. ALT is most sensitive for the presence of CBD stone.
3. CBD stone was found in 13% (5% according to literature), with normal LFT's.
4. Prospective study is planned to confirm this finding.