

Mega Gallbladder: A Case Report

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Abstract

In adults, the gallbladder measures approximately 8 cm (3.1 in) in length and 4 cm (1.6 in) in diameter when fully distended. Deviation in the size of the gall bladder is common but mega size is rare. We present a rare case of mega gallbladder measuring 21×4 cm.

Keywords: Mega gallbladder; Cholecystectomy

Case Report

A 35 year old female presented to outpatient department with recurrent episodes of pain in right upper abdomen since 5-6 months. There was no history of fever, vomiting and jaundice. On examination, there was tenderness in right hypochondrium. Other systemic examination was within normal limit. Her hematological, biochemistry including liver function test was normal. Ultrasound abdomen revealed features of cholecystitis with sludge. A large gall bladder was mentioned without size. Common bile duct and intrahepatic biliary radicals were normal.

The diagnosis of Cholecystitis was made and patient underwent open cholecystectomy. Intraoperative finding was mega gallbladder measuring 21×4 cm filled with sludge. Other parts of biliary tree were normal (Figures 1 and 2).

The postoperative course was uneventful. The histopathology report revealed features of cholecystitis with non specific sludge.

Patient was discharge on 10th post operative day and is on regular follow up since 1 month with no complaints.

Discussion

The gallbladder normally measures around approximately 8

centimetres (3.1 in) in length and 4 centimetres (1.6 in) in diameter when fully distended. It is a relatively small but surgically important organ of the body. A normal gallbladder has a capacity of 30-50 ml but is immensely distensible [1,2].

Cholecystectomy (open or laparoscopic surgical removal of the gallbladder as a treatment for stones) is one of the most common surgical procedures performed the world over.

Gallstones may be asymptomatic, even for years. These gallstones are called “silent stones” and do not require treatment [3]. Symptoms commonly begin to appear once the stones reach a certain size (>8 mm) [4].

A great variety of biliovascular anomalies may occur, rendering the bile ducts vulnerable to iatrogenic injury during cholecystectomy.

Gall bladder enlarges in condition like mucocele, empyema, carcinoma, acromegaly [5] (as a part of generalised visceromegaly), aneuploidy [6] and GB volvulus [7].

Gigantic enlargement of gall bladder is rare in absence of gall stones or other pathologies. In our case, we encountered such a giant gall bladder mostly a congenital one.

Identification of a large sized gall bladder preoperatively may help the surgeon in making appropriate changes in the operative steps for cholecystectomy, thus reducing the chances of iatrogenic injuries to biliary tree during operation.

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Figure 1: Mega gallbladder.



Figure 2: Mega gallbladder measuring 21×4 cm.

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