

Biliary Emergencies

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Three types of gallstones:

Cholesterol (70%), radiolucent

Pigment (20%), radiopaque

Mixed (10%), radiopaque

Continuum of same disease process:

Cholelithiasis

<6 hours

Right upper quadrant or epigastric pain, often colicky and postprandial

Pain may radiate to shoulder or around waist

Nausea and vomiting may be present

Cholecystitis

> 6 hours

Same manifestations as those for cholelithiasis, plus

Murphy sign present

Fever and chills may be present

Cholangitis

Same manifestations as those for cholecystitis, plus

Jaundice

Altered mental status

Shock

Imaging:

US = primary study

HIDA = more accurate

Bugs:

Enterobacteriaceae (E. Coli, Kleb) 70%

enterococci (15%)

Bacteroides (10%)

Clostridium species (10%)

Strep and Staph

Abx:

nonseptic:

3rd gen cephalosporin:

cefotaxime or ceftazidime 1-2 g IV Q8-12

ceftriaxone 1-2 g IV Q12-24

septic:

Triple therapy:

ampicillin 0.5-1g IV Q6

gentamycin 3 mg/kg/day IV given Q8

clindamycin 1200-2700 mg/day divided

(or metronidazole)

Ascending Cholangitis:

Charcot's triad: fever, jaundice, RUQ pain

Reynold's pentad: Charcot's triad + shock and confusion