

A Rare Entity - Giant Gallbladder

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Clinical Image

In medical or surgical field, a giant gallbladder is an important entity with unknown origin. It can be seen at any age presenting as a large abdominal mass as seen in our case. A 59 year old female was admitted with complaints of dull pain in the right half of the abdomen and a palpable mass present in right sided of the abdomen (Figure 1). Ultrasonography of the abdomen revealed an extremely enlarged gallbladder. Open cholecystectomy was performed (Figure 2). Gross picture showing giant Gall bladder (Figure 3).

A gallbladder is defined as 'giant' if the volume of the organ exceeds 1.5 L, so that its weight is comparable or even exceeds the mean (estimated) weight of the adult liver by Kuznetsov AV et al. [1]. With the progression of the disease, the giant gallbladder became increasingly filled with bile, which leads to chronic inflammation that subsequently damaged the contractile function of the gallbladder and contributed to further growth of the congenital large gallbladder [2]. The original study by Courvoisier et al stated that a growing, large gallbladder was more frequently caused by a biliary obstructive tumour such as a pancreatic malignancy, rather than gallstones, which may attribute to intraluminal hypertension over a shorter period of time [2]. There are examples as giant stone in the common bile duct and urinary bladder [3,4]. We are reporting a rare case diagnosed as giant gallbladder. We concluded that if disease is going to enlarge in any site or in relation to the abdomen then it should be taken out to avoid the unnecessary complications because of its pressure on surrounding structures due to its giant size.



Figure 1: An abdominal lump seen on right sided.



Figure 2: Operative area showing giant gallbladder.

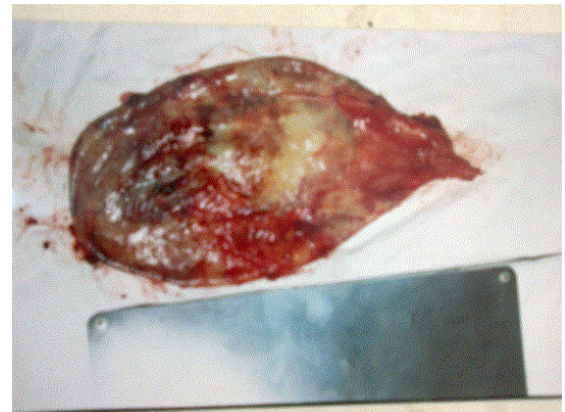


Figure 3: Gross specimen of the giant gallbladder.

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