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Non- surgical resolution of gallstones: A homoeopathic approach

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Abstract

The presence of one or more gallstones anatomically located at two possible sites in the gall bladder are known as cholelithiasis and in the common bile duct known as choledocholithiasis^[1]. These stones are crystallized deposits either formed in the gall bladder or biliary tree and are mostly composed of cholesterol, bilirubin, and bile^[2]. High biliary protein and lipid concentrations are risk factors for the formation of gallstones, while gallbladder sludge is thought to be the usual precursor of gallstones. A common disease spreading globally as a result of lifestyle changes associated with excessive junk food consumption and an increase in sedentary behaviour. Gallstone disease is more common in women. Obesity, diabetes mellitus, and hormonal imbalance are a few risk factors for gallstone formation.

Keywords: Gallstone, cholelithiasis, bile, lifestyle, homoeopathy, gall bladder

Introduction

Gallstones are hardened deposits of bile, formed within the gallbladder. They vary in size and shape from as small as a grain of sand to as large as a golf ball^[3]. Gallstones occur when there is an imbalance in the chemical constituents of bile that result in precipitation of one or more of the components. Usually mobile within the gallbladder, they can also become fixed, either within the body of the gallbladder or at the opening of the cystic duct and can disrupt the gallbladder contractility and can promote infection. When gallstones impede gallbladder function and block bile flow, biliary colic results. Persons with chronic gallstones may develop progressive fibrosis and loss of gallbladder motility^[4].

Typically there are three types of gallstones^[5] (i) Pure cholesterol stones, which contain at least 90% cholesterol, (ii) Pigment stones either brown or black, which contain at least 90% bilirubin and (iii) Mixed composition stones, which contain varying proportions of cholesterol, bilirubin and other substances such as calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate and calcium palmitate^[3]. Brown pigment stones are mainly composed of calcium bilirubinate whereas black pigment stones contain bilirubin, calcium and/or tribasic phosphate^[6]. Pure cholesterol crystals are quite soft, and protein contributes importantly to the strength of cholesterol stones^[7]. To simplify, cholesterol gallstones form when the cholesterol concentration in bile exceeds the ability of bile to hold it in solution, so that crystals form and grow as stones.

Case Profile

A 36-year-old female presented to the clinic with the following complaints:

Present Complaints

- **Pain:** Dull, aching pain in the right hypochondrium, occasionally radiating to the back.
- **Acidity:** Complaints of sour belching, heartburn, and heaviness after meals.
- **Perspiration:** Profuse sweating, especially on the head and neck region, even in cool weather.
- **Aggravation:** After fatty food and by exertion.
- **Amelioration:** By rest and lying on painful side.
- **Duration of pain:** Approximately 2 months prior to presentation.

Past History

No history of jaundice, hepatitis, or previous gallbladder disease. No history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, or tuberculosis. No history of major surgery or prolonged medication.

Family history: Mother had gallstones in her 40s.

Mental Generals

Calm, responsible, and affectionate by nature but tends to worry easily about family and future. Mildly anxious and sensitive to criticism. Prefers company; dislikes being alone. Fear of illness and misfortune. Dreams of falling or of past events or dead persons.

Physical Generals

Appetite: Ravenous with perspiration; prefers eggs and sweets.

Thirst: Thirsty 7-8 glasses per day.

Stool: often constipated.

Urine: Normal.

Sleep: unsound and feels unrefreshed on waking.

Thermals: Chilly patient; dislikes cold air and prefers warm covering.

Perspiration: Profuse, particularly on the head and neck region.

Build: Moderately obese, fair complexion.

Systemic Examination

Abdomen: Mild tenderness in right hypochondrium, no palpable mass, liver not enlarged.

Other systems: Within normal limits.

Investigations

Ultrasonography (Initial): Multiple small calculi in the gallbladder; no biliary obstruction.


SIGMA DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE
 Ultrasound • Colour Doppler • X-Ray • IVP • Laboratory Tests

Unwanted Hair Removal with Diode Laser

NAME: Mrs. DIVYA AGE/SEX: 36Y/F

INVESTIGATION: USG: ABDOMEN DATE: 03.07.2025

LIVER: It is normal in size, shape & echotexture. Intrahepatic biliary radicles are not dilated. The portal vein is normal in course and caliber. The hepatic veins appear normal.

GALL BLADDER: *It is minimally distended (post prandial) and shows multiple small echogenic foci measuring 2-3 mm in size within its lumen casting PAS.* Wall thickness measures 2.2 mm. No pericholecystic collection seen. C.B.D. is not dilated (4.0 MM). No definite calculus seen in the visualized part.

PANCREAS: It is normal in size, shape & echotexture. No focal lesion seen. Pancreatic duct is not dilated.

KIDNEYS: Both kidneys are normal in size shape and echotexture. The pelvicalyceal system appears normal. Corticomedullary differentiation is maintained. The cortical thickness is normal. No focal lesion or calculus seen. The peri/ paranephric spaces are normal.

SPLEEN: It is normal in size & echotexture.

U. BLADDER: It is distended. Outlines are smooth. No focal lesion or calculus seen.

UTERUS: It is bulky in size (post partum) with fluid in endometrial cavity. No focal lesion seen. Endometrial thickness is within normal limits.

ADENEXAE: No adenexal mass seen.

No free fluid seen in abdomen or pelvis.
No e/o appendicitis seen.

IMPRESSION: CHOLELITHIASIS



Repertorial Totality on First Visit

Clipboard 1

1. ABDOMEN - PAIN - Liver - colic; gallstone (48) 1
2. STOMACH - APPETITE - ravenous, canine, excessive - persp... (22) 1
3. FEMALE GENITALIA/SEX - PREGNANCY - during; complaints (128) 1
4. GENERALS - FOOD and DRINKS - eggs - desire (39) 1
5. MIND - CARES, full of (67) 1
6. MIND - SENSITIVE - criticism; to (17) 1
7. MIND - FEAR - misfortune, of (108) 1

254 remedies / 7 symptoms

Sum of symptoms, sort: degree

No restriction

All remedies considered

Prescription and Follow-up

Medicine: Calcarea carbonica 30C, one dose daily (OD)

Placebo: 4globules thrice daily (TDS)

Duration: 7 days initially, followed by repetition for 3-4 weeks.

Advice: Maintain light diet, avoid fatty/spicy foods.

Follow-up

After 7 days: Pain and acidity markedly reduced.

After 4 weeks: Symptom-free; follow-up USG confirmed absence of gallstones.

Follow-up of ultrasound

After 1 month of treatment: Gallbladder clear; no evidence of Calculi - remarkable recovery. Ultrasonography after approximately one month revealed a remarkable recovery with resolution of gallstones.


SIGMA

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE
 Ultrasound • Colour Doppler • X-Ray • IVP • Laboratory Tests

Unwanted Hair Removal with Diode Laser

NAME: Mrs. DIVYA **AGE/SEX: 35Y/F**

INVESTIGATION: USG: ABDOMEN **DATE: 28.07.2025**

LIVER: It is mildly enlarged in size, and appears moderately echogenic in echotexture. Intrahepatic biliary radicles are not dilated. The portal vein is normal in course and caliber. The hepatic veins appear normal.

GALL BLADDER: It is distended. Wall thickness is within normal limits. No intraluminal calculus seen. No pericholecystic collection seen. C.B.D. is not dilated.

PANCREAS: It is normal in size, shape & echotexture. No focal lesion seen. Pancreatic duct is not dilated.

KIDNEYS: Both kidneys are normal in size, position & echotexture. Corticomedullary differentiation is maintained. No calculus seen. The cortical thickness is normal. The pelvicalyceal system is not dilated. The peri/paranephric spaces are normal.

SPLEEN: It is normal in size & echotexture.

U. BLADDER: It is distended. Outlines are smooth. No focal lesion or calculus seen.

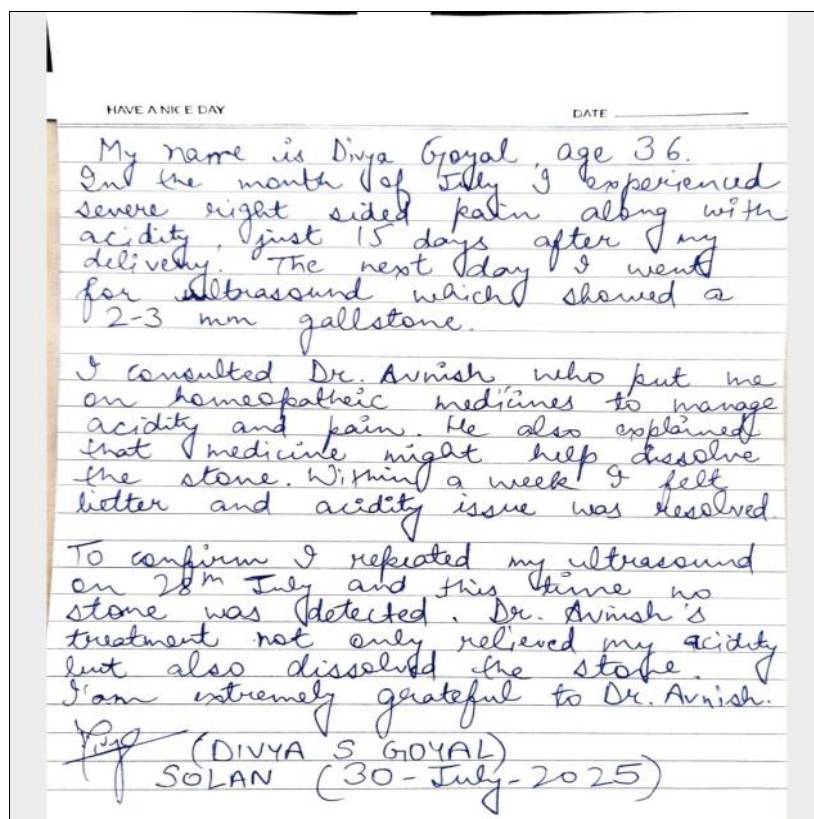
UTERUS: It is bulky in size (post partum), however is normal in shape and echotexture with central endometrium. No focal lesion seen. Endometrial thickness is within normal limit.

ADNEXAE: Both adenexae are clear. No evidence of any ovarian mass or cyst seen. No evidence of PCOD seen. No definite e/o appendicitis / significant lymphadenopathy seen. No free fluid seen in abdomen or pelvis.

IMPRESSION: HEPATOMEGALY with FATTY LIVER (GRADE – II)

(Consultant Radiologist)

Patient's Perspective of Treatment



Written Consent of Patient

Was taken.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Source of Funding

None.

Conclusion

This case illustrates the efficacy of *Calcarea Carbonica* 30C in the management of Cholelithiasis, when prescribed on the basis of totality of symptoms and constitutional similarity. The patient showed significant symptomatic and ultrasonographic improvement within one month of treatment. Since, the condition of gall stones was observed after pregnancy and the patient was on post partum rich diet, it could have been a factor for fatty liver as well. This is being managed by slight alteration in diet and lifestyle.

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