

Guideline for Hospital Admission

Ministry of Public Health - Lebanon

Guideline for gallstones management

Purpose:

The aim of this guideline is to prevent unnecessary admissions related to gallbladder disease, as many patients are admitted to carry out laboratory and radiological tests without a real indication for admission.

The listed criteria are not exclusive, and in certain cases exceptions are permitted when justified, but then a detailed report for the reasons should be required, so the criteria can be updated.

Admission to Hospital:

Biliary colic is not an indication for admission. Admission is reserved for patient with documented cholecystitis:

Clinically:

- Fever
- Leukocytosis with left shift
- Clinical pancreatitis
- Jaundice

Radiologically:

- Thickened Gallbladder wall, and /or
- Surrounding edema, and / or
- +ve Murphy sign
- Dilated biliary tree
- Stone in CBD

Surgery:

Patient with documented complication of gallstones, cholecystitis or pancreatitis are candidates for surgery.

For asymptomatic gallstones, any of the following criteria is an indication for surgery:

- a. Age <50 years
- b. gallstones ≥ 3 cm
- c. gallstones ≤ 3 mm
- d. Calcified (porcelain) gallbladder.
- e. Gallbladder polyps > 10 mm.
- f. Sickle Cell diseases
- g. Immunosuppressed Patients

References:

- The Society for Surgery of Alimentary Tract (SSAT) : SSAT patient Care Guidelines: *Treatment of gallstones and Gallbladder Disease*. Revised 2006.
- British Columbia Ministry of Health Guidelines : *Gallstones–Treatment in Adults*. July 2007.
- Gurusamy K, Samraj K. *Cholecystectomy versus no cholecystectomy in patients with silent gallstones*. Cochrane Database Syst. Rev. 2007; 20(6):1017-1029.

Checklist:

Admission for medical treatment		
Temperature	Present	Absent
Laboratory		
Elevated White cell count		
Elevated Liver function tests		
Elevated Lipase		
Elevated Amylase		
Elevated Bilirubin		
Radiologic		
Wall thickness		
Surrounding edema		
Biliary tree		
CBD		
Admission for surgery		
Pancreatitis or cholecystitis, past or present.		
Age < 50		
By Ultrasound		
Gallstones \geq 3 cm.		
Gallstones \leq 3 mm.		
Calcified (porcelain) Gallbladder.		
Gallbladder polyps > 10 mm.		

The above described checklist helps in future analysis of admitted patient with gallbladder pathology.
