



## 6. CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF CHOLEDOCHOLITHIASIS

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**Introduction.** Cholelithiasis, also known as common bile duct stones, is a common condition characterized by the presence of gallstones in the common bile duct. Diagnostic modalities for cholelithiasis include ultrasound, magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography. The management of cholelithiasis necessitates a multidisciplinary approach, encompassing medical therapy, endoscopic interventions, and surgical treatment, with the choice contingent on various factors.

**Aim of study.** To conduct a contemporary literature review and elucidate various factors for treating patients with cholelithiasis.

**Methods and materials.** Multiple articles from the PubMed database have been reviewed over a span of ten years.

**Results.** The treatment of cholelithiasis primarily involves the removal of obstructing stones through endoscopic procedures. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, typically performed in the prone position, allows the insertion of a duodenoscope into the duodenum, advancing a catheter and guidewire into the common bile duct. Using a sphincterotome, the papilla is cut with cautery, enlarging the ampulla of Vater to release stones. Various tools, such as snares and baskets, aid in stone removal, and a balloon catheter can sweep the common bile duct. Surgical removal is indicated for large, stuck, or numerous stones, requiring laparoscopic or open common bile duct exploration. An elective cholecystectomy during the same admission prevents future cholelithiasis episodes.

**Conclusion.** The focus of cholelithiasis treatment revolves mainly around a minimally invasive approach. Treatment factors involve using tools for stone removal, sphincterotomy, balloon catheterization, and stent placement to manage remaining stones and prevent obstructive jaundice.