Study of Hartmann’s Pouch of the Gallbladder

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Abstract

Background: The gall bladder is a hollow pear shaped sac lying within a fossa on the visceral surface of the right lobe of the liver. In the junction of neck of the gallbladder and the cystic duct, there is a pouch present called Hartman’s pouch or infundibulum of the gallbladder which is a frequent but inconstant feature of the normal gallbladder. It is the common site of lodged gallstones. Objective: To determine the proportion of presence of Hartman’s pouch in our population so that the concerned personnel might have a thought in mind that common pathologies of gall bladder may also involve this pouch. Materials and method: This cross sectional study was carried out in the department of Anatomy, Sir Salimullah Medical College & Mitford Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, from July 2010 to June 2011. The number of sample was 62 postmortem human gallbladders which were collected from unclaimed dead bodies. Results: Hartmann’s pouch of the gallbladder was found in 45 (72.58%). Conclusion: Hartman’s pouch is present in a good proportion of our population.

Keywords: Hartmann’s pouch; gallbladder.

Introduction

The gallbladder is a flask-shaped, blind ending diverticulum which acts as a reservoir and concentrator of hepatic bile.1,2 It usually lies on the visceral surface of the right lobe of the liver in a fossa known as the cystic fossa between the right and quadrate lobes.3 The gallbladder has fundus, body and neck from below upwards and backwards. The fundus entirely covered by peritoneum usually extends beyond the inferior border of the liver. The body continues into the tapering neck which opens into the cystic duct.4 On the ventral aspect of the gallbladder just proximal to the neck, a dilatation may be present known as Hartmann’s pouch. Gallstones commonly impact in this sac.5-9 It may also be involved in several other pathologies. If a peptic duodenal ulcer ruptures, a false passage may form between the infundibulum and the superior part of the duodenum, allowing gallstones to enter the duodenum.10 Hartmann’s pouch is responsible for adhesion between the neck and cystic duct even with the common bile duct in inflammatory condition.11 To elucidate the scientific discrepancies with regard to Hartmann’s pouch of the gallbladder, a descriptive study of its incidence and morphology was performed.

Materials and method

This cross sectional study was carried out in the department of Anatomy, Sir Salimullah Medical College & Mitford Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The study was conducted from July 2010 to

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June 2011. The number of sample was 62 postmortem human gallbladders which were collected from unclaimed dead bodies that were under examination in the department of Forensic Medicine of Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Sir Salimullah Medical College & Mitford Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Morphological study was carried out on all samples. Among the studied samples, the age ranged from 10 to 65 years.

**Observation of the Hartmann’s pouch**

Presence of the Hartmann’s pouch was observed with naked eye and was recorded accordingly (Fig 1).

![Fig 1: Photograph of Hartmann’s pouch of the gallbladder.](image)

Gb-gallbladder  
HP-Hartmann’s pouch  
CD-cystic duct

**Results**

Hartmann’s pouch of the gallbladder was found in forty five (45) samples out of sixty two (62). The percentage of the presence of Hartmann’s pouch was 72.58% (Figure 2). Morphology of Hartmann’s pouch was observed with naked eye and was recorded. Typical morphological features are shown in Figure 2.

![Fig 2: Proportion of Hartmann’s pouch of the gallbladder](image)
useful tool for surgeons, gastroenterologists, pathologists, and radiologists to understand the anatomy for accurate diagnosis, successful treatment and better prognosis.

Hartmann’s pouch is a frequent feature of the gallbladder. To establish a standard data similar study with larger sample size in different age groups and using more advance methods including both sexes are recommended.

References


