

The porcelain gallbladder - laparoscopic approach

E. Târcoveanu, A. Vasilescu, Șt. Georgescu, V. Filip, N. Vlad

Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Gr.T. Popa" Iași, România

Clinica I Chirurgie "I. Tănăsescu – Vl. Buțureanu", Spitalul "Sf. Spiridon" Iași, România

Abstract

A long time porcelain gallbladder was considered a relative contraindication to laparoscopic cholecystectomy, because of a high incidence of gallbladder cancer. From 12,000 patients underwent cholecystectomy in First Surgical Clinic of Iasi, 5 (0.04%) patients had porcelain gallbladder. All patients underwent ultrasound examen. Patients with porcelain gallbladder were classified as Type I to II according to preoperative ultrasound findings: three cases with porcelain gallbladder type I and two cases with porcelain gallbladder type II (in one case we found associated gallbladder carcinoma). We describe a three cases with porcelain gallbladder type I (complete calcification of gallbladder wall) treated by laparoscopic approach. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy was difficult because of adhesions and problems with grasping the thick gallbladder wall, but the postoperative course was uneventful. The histo-pathologic result of the specimen established the diagnosis of porcelain gallbladder type I and no cancer in the calcified wall of the gallbladder. We conclude based on cases presented and the literature review, although there is a high conversion rate, that patients with a type I porcelain gallbladder should be considered for laparoscopic cholecystectomy using a preoperative selection based on the ultrasound findings.

Key words: porcelain gallbladder, laparoscopic cholecystectomy

Correspondență:

Prof. dr. Eugen Tarcoveanu

Clinica I Chirurgie "I. Tănăsescu – Vl. Buțureanu"

Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Gr. T. Popa", Spitalul Sf. Spiridon Iași

str. Independenței, nr. 1, 700111, Iași, România

E-mail: etarcov@yahoo.com.