

SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE COMMON BILE DUCT (CBD) IN A 53-YEAR-OLD CAUCASIAN MALE ADMITTED WITH ACUTE PANCREATITIS

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Common bile duct (CBD) perforation has been associated with invasive procedures and blunt trauma. Spontaneous rupture, however, is an exceedingly rare occurrence in adults and has been reported less than 50 times in the world literature. This case report discusses a 53 year-old-gentleman who was admitted with acute pancreatitis secondary to gallstones. He continued to deteriorate clinically with bilious and enteric contents in an abdominal drain that was inserted to drain intra-abdominal collections. This resulted in this patient being taken to theatre for a diagnostic laparoscopy with a pre-operative diagnosis of gall bladder perforation. Intra-operatively, however, there was a 0.5 cm linear defect noted in the CBD. The gall bladder was intact. CBD was repaired using a T-tube drain followed by abdominal lavage. The patient recovered well and was discharged on day 49 post-operatively with T-tube in situ. Pre-operative diagnosis of CBD perforation can be challenging. It should be considered as a differential diagnosis in patients with bile present in the peritoneum. Early recognition is a key as prompt surgical intervention leads to a better prognosis.

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