

A Local Experience in the Management of Recurrent Pyogenic Cholangitis (Oriental Cholangitis)

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Objective: Recurrent pyogenic cholangitis (RPC), though endemic in most parts of Southeast Asia, is only occasionally seen in Saudi Arabia among expatriate workers from those areas. We present our experience in the management of RPC with a view to raise the awareness of this condition among surgeons and physicians, practicing in this area.

Method: This is a retrospective study conducted between 1994 – 1995 on five patients admitted with RPC to Riyadh medical Complex (RMC). Presenting features, investigations and management for all patients were revised.

Results: All patients presented with abdominal pain, fever, rigors and jaundice. Ultrasonography and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatogram (ERCP) were the main tools of investigation. Intrahepatic and extrahepatic calculi were present in 4 patients whereas one patient had extrahepatic calculi. ERCP successfully removed all stones from the biliary tree in 3 patients. Two patients required surgery for complete removal of stones from the bile ducts.

Conclusion: Patients of RPC are seriously ill on presentation and need aggressive resuscitation and early decompression of biliary tree. ERCP plays a major role in their management. Surgery may be needed in selected patients.

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