

# Audit of the management of gallstone pancreatitis at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth

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## Background:

Following an attack of acute gallstone pancreatitis, the BSG guidelines recommends that patients should undergo definitive treatment of their gallstones within 2 weeks of being discharged from hospital. In our hospital we perform 1100 cholecystectomies each year, 400 of them as urgent cases.

**Aim:** To Investigate whether we are adhering to the BSG guidelines in the management of gallstone pancreatitis.

## Method:

All patients admitted to the Queen Alexandra with acute gallstone pancreatitis between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were included in the audit. Patient records were analysed to establish how each patient was managed, including the timings of definitive treatments.

## Results:

During the audit period, 254 patients were admitted with gallstone pancreatitis, 10 of whom died. Of the 244 survivors, 121 (49.6%) underwent definitive treatment of gallstones whilst still in hospital, 83 (34%) patients were treated electively and 8 (3.3%) patients were treated within 2 weeks of discharge.

50 patients did not receive any treatment, of which; 26 were too frail, 10 died, 6 patients refused treatment, 3 are still awaiting treatment and 2 had other pancreatic issues.

Overall, 63% of those eligible received definitive treatment within two weeks.

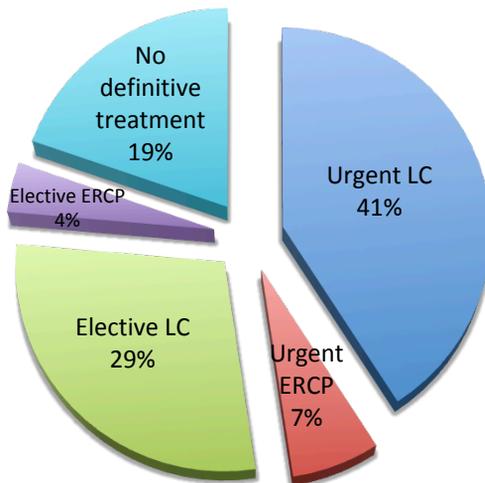


Figure 1: The percentage of patients given each form of treatment for gallstone pancreatitis at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth. LC= laparoscopic cholecystectomy, ERCP= Endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancreatography

## Conclusion:

63% of patients suitable for definitive treatment were treated within the two-week period recommended by the BCG guideline, the majority of whom were at their index admission. The remaining 37% of patients were treated on average in less than 8 weeks. Swift readmission for definitive treatment, especially cholecystectomy, is a logistical challenge.

## Further Developments:

Several changes are being made to the system to reduce the time taken for a Laparoscopic cholecystectomy to be performed after pancreatitis:

- The booking form is being changed so that the diagnosis of pancreatitis is more obvious
- Highlighting patients to the surgical nurse practitioners so that their operation date can be chased up
- Education of new doctors to the at induction

	Median age	Median time till Rx	No <2 weeks	No >2 weeks
<b>Urgent LC</b>	57	3	103	1
<b>Urgent ERCP</b>	81	3	17	0
<b>Elective LC</b>	59	56	5	68
<b>Elective ERCP</b>	84	15	3	7
<b>No definitive treatment</b>	76	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	357	77	128	76

Figure 2: Breakdown of the treatment received and how long it took to receive it.