Reviewer's report

Title: Gallbladder polyps - a follow-up study after 11 years

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Reviewer: Thomas Hugh

Reviewer's report:

This is an important study and a valuable contribution to the literature on this subject.

The authors note that the prevalence of GB polyps is higher than has been documented in the past (12.1% instead of 6%). They rightly indicate that this may not be due to a true increase in prevalence but rather improvements in ultrasound sensitivity.

The authors state that in the 2013 follow up study the prevalence of GB polyps was 12.1% (50/413 patients).

Then they went on to describe 27 patients who had already had polyps and they showed that 48.1% of these patients no longer had GB polyps. This is helpful information that can reassure patients who are found to have GB polyps but do not have any symptoms to warrant cholecystectomy that a follow up approach is justified.

Half of the patients who had polyps in 2002 and still had them in 2013 had an increase in the size of the polyps.

The other important information from this study is that 8.7% of patients who did not have GB polyps in the original study subsequently developed polyps. Predicting which patients might develop GB polyps, or which polyps might increase in size is not easy to do- do the authors have any comment on whether there were any clinical or morphological polyp features that might have identified those patients who developed polyps or those whose polyps increased in size or changed shape over time?

The authors did not comment on the exact size of the polyps that had grown over the 11 year follow up period and whether these patients subsequently underwent cholecystectomy. It would be helpful to know if any of the polyps that increased in size were subject to histopathological examination. Were they all simple cholesterol polyps or were there any GB adenomas in this group?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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