REVIEWER'S REPORT

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

Version: 0 Date: 24 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewers report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: Brief summary of the findings presented in the manuscript

The authors of the present study aimed to analyze the prevalence and long-term progression of gallbladder polyps in the general population. The results show that the prevalence of gallbladder polyps increased in the population. Also, new lesions developed in 8.7% of the tested group. Polyps continue to persist in 51.9% of the individuals.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Background

The Background section is quite short, however, well-written and supported by the relevant references and clearly states the aim of the study.

Materials and Methods and Results

The Materials and Methods section is well-described. The method of statistical analysis is appropriate.
It would be beneficial for the paper to structure the Results section. This may include separating the text into small subsections with titles (for instance, one subsection describing the prevalence data and one subsection on the ultrasound scan characteristics.

The authors provided a comprehensive analysis of the prevalence of gallbladder polyps in a population sample. However, since the study aimed to investigate both the prevalence and long-term progression, it would be interesting to know if any of the patients originally included in the study underwent cholecystectomy and if any histological analysis of the polyps was performed.

Also, since there several instrumental methods for the analysis of the polyps, has CT scanning ever been performed? CT scan is usually helpful in the analysis of tumorous polyps (Sun et al. Diagnosis and treatment of polypoid lesions of the gallbladder: Report of 194 cases. Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis. 2004).

Discussion and Conclusion

Although, as the Conclusion states the current study has been completed in 2013, there are several relevant papers, which were published after 2013 and may be included in the current manuscript as references.

With regard to current guidelines and management of gallbladder polyps, the authors would be recommended to include the recently published joint guidelines from several European medical societies (Wiles et al. Management and follow-up of gallbladder polyps : Joint guidelines between the European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology (ESGAR), European Association for Endoscopic Surgery and other Interventional Techniques (EAES), International Society of Digestive Surgery - European Federation (EFISDS) and European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) (Eur Radiol 2017).

In addition, a comprehensive paper reviewing a large number of publications focusing on progression of gallbladder polyps has recently been published and may also be included as a reference (Babu et al. Management and diagnosis of gallbladder polyps: a systematic review. Langenbecks Arch Surg. 2015).

Also, there are several other publications on the prevalence of gallbladder polyps in general population, such as: Choi et al. Prevalence and Risk Factors of Gallbladder Polypoid Lesions in a Healthy Population. Yonsei Med J. 2016.

References

Although the authors have provided an extensive list of relevant references, it would be beneficial for the paper to include more recent publications mentioned above.
Overall conclusion

The current study follows the appropriate ethical and scientific standards. While completed in 2013, the study is still relevant and provides valuable data for the research on gallbladder polyps. The presented data will be interesting for both gastroenterologists and laboratory researchers. The manuscript would benefit from addition of several recent references relevant to this medical field. The manuscript may be published in a relevant gastroenterology or other relevant clinical journal with a moderate impact factor.

The authors are recommended to add more recent references related to the studies of the prevalence and progression of gallbladder polyps.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

See comments above

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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