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Iatrogenic Bile Duct Injuries: A Critical Appraisal of Classification Systems

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Abstract

Bile duct injuries represent the most dramatic complications after an open or laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The detrimental effects on patient quality of life and overall survival are the most obvious consequences of such injuries. An effective treatment strategy after accurate mapping of the injury type is the only method of averting these morbid consequences. Several classification systems have been proposed in an attempt to accurately describe and categorize bile duct injuries. The critical question is whether we truly need all these systems and whether each of these systems adds value to the existing knowledge base, or further obscures the field. Each classification system has several advantages to base its clinical utility on, but entails a reasonable number of limitations as well. Currently, a tailored approach adopting the classification system which provides the most appropriate guidance - either in terms of diagnosis or treatment decision making - appears to be the most justified option

Key words: categorize, iatrogenic, bile duct injuries, management, diagnosis