

Endoscopic ultrasound-guided gallbladder drainage for acute cholecystitis when surgery is not an option

Information for the public

Published: 22 June 2023

www.nice.org.uk

This procedure can be used for acute cholecystitis when surgery is not an option because it works well and there are no serious concerns about its safety in this condition.

Acute cholecystitis is inflammation of the gallbladder. It usually happens when a gallstone blocks the opening that drains bile from the gallbladder. Bile builds up, causing nausea, vomiting and fever. In this procedure, a flexible tube called an endoscope is passed through the mouth and into the stomach or the first part of the small intestine. Using ultrasound to identify the gallbladder, a small tube (a stent) is inserted through the endoscope then through the wall of the stomach or small intestine into the gallbladder. Bile flows through the stent. The aim is to drain the built-up bile from the gallbladder and reduce inflammation.

The [NHS webpage on acute cholecystitis](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what standard arrangements are.

The [British Liver Trust](#) (0800 652 7330) can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

ISBN: 978-1-4731-8924-9