

PICTURES IN DIGESTIVE PATHOLOGY

## Bouveret syndrome: an infrequent presentation of gallstone ileus

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### CASE REPORT

We report the case of a 75-year-old woman with a personal background of hypertension and peptic ulcer with a 5-days history of constipation, vomiting and abdominal pain. Simple radiology and abdominal computed tomography were performed, finding a great dilatation of the stomach until the first portion of the duodenum. The obstruction was due to a gallstone obstruction in the second portion of the duodenum (Fig. 1). The patient underwent emergency laparotomy. A gastric dilatation and an inflammatory plastron in the duodenum were found. Duodenotomy (Fig. 2) and gallstone removal was performed (Fig. 3). No surgery over the gallbladder or the fistula was performed.

### DISCUSSION

Bouveret syndrome is an infrequent presentation of gallstone ileus. It is caused by the presence of an obstructive gallstone in the duodenum. The gallstone is usually single and bigger than 2 centimeters. It accounts for the 2-3% of the cases of gallstone ileus and it is due to a cholecystoduodenal or cholecystogastric fistula. It usually occurs in elderly women with comorbidities and its clinical presentation is not very specific (1).

The diagnosis usually requires radiology techniques. Simple abdominal radiology can reveal pneumobilia, which can be diagnostic in the 23% of cases. Abdominal ultrasounds as well as gastrointestinal transit with barium meal can be of interest.



Fig. 1. TC image showing a gallstone in the duodenum and a large gastric dilatation.

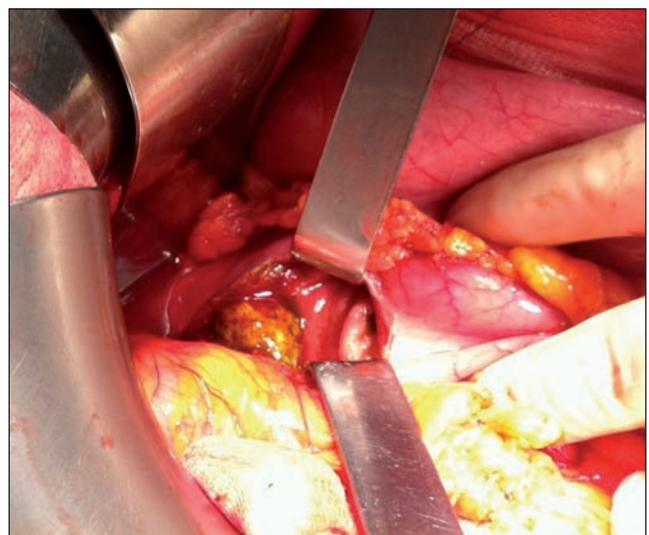


Fig. 2. Intraoperative image after duodenotomy.

Also tomography, as in our case, can be useful. Gastroscopy may have diagnostic and therapeutic interest, allowing the removal of the gallstone (2). However, there are very few cases reporting a single endoscopic treatment, or even combined with extracorporeal lithotripsy (3).

In our case, gastroscopy was not performed since it is not available for emergency in our hospital.

The definitive treatment is mainly surgical (2), with the removal of the gallstone and the eventual repair of the biliodigestive fistula.

## REFERENCES

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Fig. 3. Image of the gallstone.