

Cholecystitis | Causes, Symptoms and Treatment

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Overview

- **Gallbladder:** A small, pear-shaped organ located under the liver that stores bile, which helps digest fats.
- **Cholecystitis:** Inflammation of the gallbladder, often caused by gallstones blocking the bile duct.



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Symptoms

- **Severe pain** in the upper right abdomen
- **Pain extending** to the right shoulder or back
- **Nausea** and vomiting
- **Fever**
- **Pain when touching** the abdomen

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Causes

- **Gallstones** are the main cause of cholecystitis.
- **Blockage** of the bile duct due to stones or tumors.
- **Infection** such as AIDS or viral infections.
- **Severe illness** reduces blood flow to the gallbladder.



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Complications

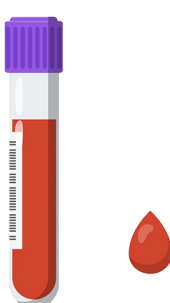
- **Gallbladder infection:** buildup of contaminated bile.
- **Gallbladder tissue death** (gangrene): may lead to gallbladder rupture
- **Gallbladder rupture:** due to swelling or infection



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Diagnosis

- **Blood tests:** to detect infection or gallbladder problems
- **Imaging tests :**
Ultrasound
Computed tomography (CT)
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRCP)
- **HIDA scan:** to track bile flow



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Treatment

- **Fasting:** to relieve pressure on the gallbladder.
- **Intravenous fluids:** to prevent dehydration.
- **Antibiotics:** to fight infection.
- **Analgesics:** to relieve pain.
- **Stone removal:** via ERCP.
- **Drainage of the gallbladder:** in severe cases
- **Cholecystectomy:** the definitive treatment in most cases



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Prevention

- **Lose weight slowly:** to avoid stone formation
- **Maintain a healthy weight:** through a balanced diet and exercise.
- **Healthy diet:** rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains

