

## Acute Cholecystitis

**Acute Cholecystitis:** This is inflammation of the gallbladder, which can be accompanied by infection. It is an acute medical condition in which the gallbladder becomes inflamed and swollen because the flow of bile into small bowel is blocked by gallstones.

### Causes

- Gallstones
- Ischemia (decrease blood supply to gallbladder)
- Secondary infections

### Symptoms

- Often noted after a large fatty meal
- Sudden onset of pain which is constant in the middle or right upper abdomen, pain persists for more than 3-4hrs (compared to biliary colic- wherein pain resolves in 1-2hrs)
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Fever

### If untreated may lead to

- Gangrene in the gallbladder: This is a severe infection with destruction of gallbladder. Diabetics and the elderly are at highest risk.
- Cholangitis: Infection of the common bile duct, which is attached to the gallbladder.
- Jaundice

### What you should do?

You will require urgent medical attention, present to the emergency department in an acute hospital.

### Treatment will include:

- Bowel rest
- IV antibiotics and pain medications
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy – surgical removal of the gallbladder
- You may need to stay in hospital for 2-3 days.