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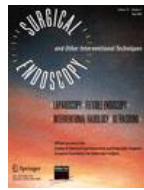
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**An audit of cystic duct closure in laparoscopic cholecystectomies**

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**A. Rohatgi¹ and A.L. Widdison¹**

(1) Department of Surgery, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske TR1 3LJ, Cornwall, United Kingdom

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Abstract

Background Cystic duct leak is an infrequent but potentially serious complication of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The aims of this audit were to assess the efficacy of locking absorbable clips for closing the cystic duct and to compare the results with those for simple clips used previously.

Methods The records for all laparoscopic cholecystectomies performed in one hospital over a 5-year period were reviewed. The results were compared using Fisher's exact test.

Results Of 518 laparoscopic cholecystectomies attempted, 24 were excluded. There was no difference in age or sex ratio between the two groups. Cystic duct leaks were identified either on endoscopic retrograde cholangio pancreatography or at laparotomy. No cystic duct leak occurred in any of the 344 locking clip cases, as compared with 3 leaks in the 146 (2%) simple clip cases ($p < 0.03$).

Conclusion Locking clips are a safe and effective method for cystic duct closure. They are associated with a reduced cystic duct leak rate, as compared with that for simple clips.

Keywords Absorbable clips - Cystic duct leak - Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

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