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**EUS-guided gallbladder drainage in acute cholecystitis**

Bang J, Arnoletti J, Wagner A, et al. [EUS-guided gallbladder drainage in acute cholecystitis: long-term problems with surgical approach.](https://gut.bmj.com/content/73/3/395) Gut 2024; 73: 395-397. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2023-331245

Endoscopic ultrasound guided lumen apposing metal stents (LAMS) are an alternative to percutaneous cholecystostomy for patients with cholecystitis who are not felt to be surgical candidates. Endoscopic drainage was found to be an effective intervention in the majority of patients in this study with resolution of sepsis within 48 hours and median time to discharge of 3 days for 24 of 25 patients. However, at median follow up of 277 days for the 17 surviving patients, 8 had persistent biliary type pain, with three patients felt to require and be suitable for surgical intervention. The presence of the indwelling stents made a laparoscopic surgical approach non-viable necessitating open surgery for these patients. Bang et al., argue based on this that endoscopic drainage should be reserved for patients who are felt to be never fit for surgery given the complexities of operating with LAMS in situ.