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COMMENTARY:

Rethinking the Management of Choledocholithiasis: The Role of Biliary Stenting

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The study titled “Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Endoscopic, Laparoscopic, and Surgical Treatments in Common Bile Duct Stones; A Single Center Experience” published on this issue of Kosova Journal of Surgery conducted by Dr. Erinda Zoto representing Prof, Arben Beqiri and colleagues from the University Hospital Center “Mother Teresa” in Tirana, Albania, presents an important advancement in the surgical management of common bile duct (CBD) stones. With obstructive jaundice and acute cholangitis being common complications in patients suffering from choledocholithiasis, the need for innovative and effective management strategies is becoming increasingly urgent.

The authors’ analysis of a cohort of 84 patients treated with biliary stenting underscores the practical role of this intervention, especially in cases where traditional endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) fails or is not immediately feasible. A striking 90% of patients experienced symptom relief, illustrating the efficacy of biliary stenting as a temporary solution that can significantly alleviate patient suffering. This finding is

particularly crucial given that the standard treatment for CBD stones carries not only high success rates but also notable risks of complications and recurrence, as highlighted in the discussion.

The paper explores into the nuanced context in which biliary stenting serves as an adjunct or alternative to ERCP. It emphasizes its potential to manage patients with large or obstructive stones, especially those with comorbid conditions that may render them unsuitable for more aggressive surgical interventions. The statistics presented—such as the successful definitive removal of stents in 15 patients and only 16% requiring stent replacement—suggest a reassuring profile for biliary stenting, reinforcing its applicability as an effective tool in the surgical arsenal.

Moreover, the study provides important insights into the benefits of minimally invasive procedures. By avoiding open surgical interventions, biliary stenting not only reduces inherent surgical risks but also shortens hospital stays, ultimately leading to lower healthcare costs. Such considerations are critically