

THE PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS FOR GALLSTONES IN AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES

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A retrospective study of 560 autoimmune liver disease patients found that 32.5% had comorbid gallstones, with age and alkaline phosphatase levels identified as independent risk factors for this comorbidity.

KEY POINTS

- Among 560 patients with autoimmune liver diseases (207 PBC, 289 AIH, 64 PBC-AIH overlap), 32.50% had gallstones, with the highest proportion in PBC-AIH overlap syndrome (40.63%).
- Multiple stones predominated (43.41%), followed by single stones (32.42%) and sludge (6.04%).
- Age (OR 1.024, 95% CI 1.006-1.042) and serum ALP levels (OR 1.001, 95% CI 1-1.002) were independent risk factors for gallstones in autoimmune liver disease patients overall.
- Patients with autoimmune liver diseases and gallstones had significantly higher age at first visit and serum markers of bile duct injury (GGT $p=0.003$, ALP $p=0.001$) compared to those without gallstones.
- This material is relevant for hepatologists and gastroenterologists managing patients with autoimmune liver diseases who may benefit from gallstone screening in older patients and those with elevated alkaline phosphatase.

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