(Refer to page 36)

Answer: Mirizzi Syndrome

The cholangiogram showed multiple large gallstones with one stone in the cystic duct impinging on the distal common hepatic duct (CHD), causing obstruction with resultant proximal CHD and intra-hepatic duct obstruction, Mirizzi syndrome (MS).

MS is a rare complication (frequency about one per cent) of gallstone disease, first described by Pablo Luis Mirizzi, a surgeon from Argentina. There are four components to make up MS: a) anatomy placing the cystic duct parallel to the common hepatic duct, b) impaction of a stone in the cystic duct or gallbladder neck, c) obstruction of the common hepatic duct from the stone itself, or from the resultant inflammatory response, and d) intermittent or constant jaundice occasionally causing cholangitis, and with longstanding obstruction. ¹

Patients with this syndrome are typically aged between 53 and 70 years. However, it can occur at any age. There is a female preponderance and the most common clinical presentation is obstructive jaundice, abdominal pain over the right upper quadrant, and fever in patients with known or suspected gallstone disease.

Note: Please refer to the Supplementary Text for Classification of Mirizzi Syndrome.

REFERENCES