

Present role of classic open choledochostomy in the surgical treatment of patients with common bile duct stones

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Open choledochostomy still represents an important step of biliary surgery, even during the era of laparoscopic surgery. Although its application has decreased with the widespread use of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and papillotomy, still there are some patients in whom it is necessary to perform open choledochostomy and place a T-tube. The morbidity and mortality rates depend mainly on the presence or absence of an acute suppurative cholangitis, rather than the performance of the choledochostomy. In patients with mild cholangitis or those no cholangitis and less than 60 years of age, the mortality rate is lower than that observed after ERCP. This procedure is still an important technique for surgeons dedicated to biliary surgery, and therefore several technical aspects of common bile duct exploration are important to remember.