

# Long term follow-up of patients with symptomatic and asymptomatic cholelithiasis Seguimiento a largo plazo de pacientes con colelitiasis asintomática y sintomática, no operados

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**Background:** In Chile, cholelithiasis is a serious public health problem and there are no studies about its natural history. **Aim:** To assess the long term evolution of patients with symptomatic and asymptomatic cholelithiasis. **Patients and methods:** Ninety two patients with cholelithiasis (57 female), aged 15 to 80 years old and that were not operated, were followed during a period of 9 to 14 years. **Results:** Thirteen patients were initially asymptomatic. Of them, seven had complications or symptoms during follow-up and two were operated. Among the 69 symptomatic patients, 38 (55%) were not operated during follow-up, and seventeen (25%) did not have symptoms again. Ten patients died during follow-up, four due to complications of biliary tract stones. **Conclusions:** The present finding suggest that the evolution of cholelithiasis in Chile is more aggressive than abroad, and an early surgical treatment is warranted.