**Gallstones**

They aren’t really stones. They're pieces of solid material that form in the gallbladder, a small organ located under the liver.

The patient might not even know that have them until they block a bile duct, causing pain that need to get treated right away.

Types

The two main kinds are:

* **Cholesterol stones.** These are usually yellow-green in color. They're the most common kind, accounting for 80% of gallstones.
* **Pigment stones.** These stones are smaller and darker. They're made up of bilirubin, which comes from bile, a fluid that liver makes and gallbladder stores.

**What Causes Gallstones?**

There may be several reasons, including:

* Genetic causes
* over weight
* Problems with gallbladder
* Diet

Bile can be part of the problem. the body needs bile, but if it has too much cholesterol in it, that makes gallstones more likely.

It can also happen if gallbladder can’t empty properly.

Pigment stones are more common in people with certain medical conditions, such as cirrhosis (a liver disease) or blood diseases such as sickle cell anemia.

**Sign and symptoms**

* Pain Start suddenly in the (epigastric area) and spread to the right upper back or[shoulder](http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/picture-of-the-shoulder)
* Prevent from taking normal or deep breaths.
* Last 15 minutes to 24 hours. Continuous pain for 1 to 5 hours is common.
* Begin at night and be severe enough to wake the patient
* Occur after meals.

Gallstone pain can cause [vomiting](http://www.webmd.com/children/ss/nausea-vomiting-remedies-treatment), which may relieve some of the (abdominal) pain and pressure. Pain that occurs with a fever, nausea, and vomiting or loss of appetite may be a sign of [inflammation](http://www.webmd.com/arthritis/about-inflammation) or infection of the [gallbladder](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/picture-of-the-gallbladder) (acute [cholecystitis](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/tc/cholecystitis-overview)). Symptoms that may mean that a gallstone is blocking the [common bile duct](http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/common-bile-duct) include:

* Yellowing of the [skin](http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/picture-of-the-skin) and the white part of the [eyes](http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/picture-of-the-eyes) ([jaundice](http://www.webmd.com/children/digestive-diseases-jaundice)).
* Dark urine.
* Light-colored stools.
* A [fever and chills](http://www.webmd.com/first-aid/fevers-causes-symptoms-treatments).

**Diagnosis**

**History and clinical examination**

**Ultrasound of abdomen**

**Abdominal CT Scan**

This is an imaging test that takes pictures of liver and abdominal region.

**Gallbladder Scan**

**Blood Tests** bilirubin level as part of liver function test.

**Treatment**

Surgery is often the first option if have significant symptoms.

The doctor may need to perform a laparoscopic gallbladder removal,

**Medications**

Drugs that dissolve gallstones caused by cholesterol are an option if cannot undergo surgery. These medications may take several years to eliminate the gallstones.