

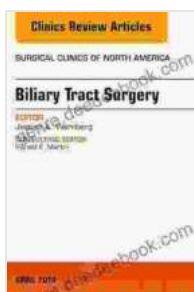
Biliary Tract Surgery: An Issue of Surgical Clinics

Biliary tract surgery is a surgical procedure to remove the gallbladder or bile ducts. The gallbladder is a small organ that stores bile, a fluid that helps digest fats. The bile ducts are tubes that carry bile from the liver to the gallbladder and small intestine.

Biliary tract surgery is typically performed to treat conditions such as:

- Gallstones
- Cholecystitis (inflammation of the gallbladder)
- Cholangitis (inflammation of the bile ducts)
- Biliary strictures (narrowing of the bile ducts)
- Biliary tumors

There are two main types of biliary tract surgery:



Biliary Tract Surgery, An Issue of Surgical Clinics (The Clinics: Surgery Book 94) by Masahiko Wanibuchi

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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- **Laparoscopic cholecystectomy:** This is a minimally invasive procedure that is performed through small incisions in the abdomen. The gallbladder is removed using a laparoscope, a thin, lighted tube with a camera on the end.
- **Open cholecystectomy:** This is a more traditional procedure that is performed through a larger incision in the abdomen. The gallbladder is removed through the incision.

The risks of biliary tract surgery include:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Damage to the bile ducts
- Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas)
- Cholangitis (inflammation of the bile ducts)

The recovery time from biliary tract surgery varies depending on the type of procedure performed. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is typically associated with a shorter recovery time than open cholecystectomy.

Most patients can expect to go home from the hospital within 1-2 days after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Patients who undergo open cholecystectomy may need to stay in the hospital for 3-4 days.

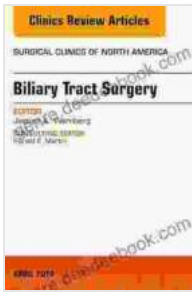
After surgery, patients will need to follow a low-fat diet for several weeks. They will also need to avoid strenuous activity for several weeks.

In some cases, there are alternatives to biliary tract surgery. These alternatives include:

- **Medical therapy:** Medications can be used to dissolve gallstones or reduce inflammation of the gallbladder or bile ducts.
- **ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography):** ERCP is a procedure that uses a thin, lighted tube with a camera on the end to view the bile ducts and gallbladder. During ERCP, stones can be removed from the bile ducts or a stent can be placed to keep the bile ducts open.
- **Sphincterotomy:** Sphincterotomy is a procedure that cuts the sphincter of Oddi, a muscle that controls the flow of bile from the gallbladder to the small intestine. Sphincterotomy can be performed during ERCP.

Biliary tract surgery is a safe and effective procedure for treating a variety of conditions. The type of procedure performed will depend on the individual patient's condition. The recovery time from surgery varies depending on the type of procedure performed. In some cases, there are alternatives to biliary tract surgery.

If you are experiencing symptoms of a biliary tract condition, it is important to see your doctor for a diagnosis. Early diagnosis and treatment can help to prevent serious complications.



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