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### The ultrasonography as a useful tool to diagnose in primary care: a case of choledocholithiasis

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**Background:** 83 years old asymptomatic female patient seen in Primary Care to check the results of a routine blood test that shows elevation of transaminases, gammaglutamyltransferase and phosphatase alcaline with normal bilirubin. Personal medical history: hypertension, type 2 diabetes Mellitus. No data of previous surgery.

**Method:** The physical examination was normal except for little abdominal pain in palpation of its upper area. The rest of the blood test apart from the elements pointed above was normal. Suspecting an obstructing disease of the biliary tract, it is done an ultrasound examination in the primary care room in with a multifrequency convex abdominal transducer. Ultrasound findings were: increased diameter of the common bile duct with an image inside of it with hyperechoic posterior acoustic shadow compatible with choledocholithiasis in its distal part, in the area of the head of the pancreas. The gallbladder had normal wall with internal material with similar characteristics to the previous image compatible with gallstones.

**Results and Conclusions:** Choledocholithiasis is the presence of at least one gallstone in the common bile duct. They can be primary if they are built in the bile duct or secondary if they come from the gallbladder. Its incidence increases with the age and represents a 15% of patients with gallstones. The typical symptom is the right hypochondrium pain, but in the 14% of the cases they are asymptomatic. It is the most common cause of non-neoplastic obstructive jaundice. Ultrasonography is an affordable, non-invasive, safe patient examination. In this case the ultrasonography done in the primary care room has allowed us to diagnose the choledocholithiasis from an elevation of hepatic enzymes, establishing its secondary origin by the cofinding of gallstones. We also could examine the liver, explore the biliary tract dilatation and check the status of the gallbladder excluding acute complications as cholangitis.