

The role of ultrasound in diagnosis of obstructive Jaundice causes in Sudanese population

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Abstract: This study was done to assess the role of ultrasound in diagnosis of obstructive jaundice causes. The study took place in different Khartoum clinical centers and hospitals in the period between Jan 2010 – March 2011. A total of 102 patients were examined using ultrasound (U/S), 3.5 MHz probe, Fukuda, Toshiba, Sheimadzu and Aloka Machine. The population of the study (jaundiced patients) had been selected by the technique of non-probability sampling and full history was taken. The causes of obstructive jaundice were detected as stone 19%, mass 51%. Sensitivity of ultrasound in determining the level of obstruction was 96% and extra hepatic obstruction was 67%. The prevalence of obstructive jaundice was found to be higher in females (58%) than male (42%). Ascites and liver cirrhosis were found in 24% of the patients, hepatitis and hepatomegaly represent 33%. The study confirmed that obstructive jaundice represent 89.2% of the patients and non-obstructive jaundice was 10.8%. The study recommended to measure bile duct, liver size, portal vein, spleen and compare the liver echo texture with the adjacent organs. Scanning should be performed for liver metastasis and also detect stone in the common bile duct.

Key words: Ultrasound, obstructive jaundice, ascites, Liver disease, non-obstructive jaundice, Sudanese patients

I. Introduction:

Jaundice is a condition produced when excess amount of bilirubin circulating in the blood stream dissolve in the subcutaneous fat, causing a yellowish appearance of the skin and the eyes. All other jaundice indicates overload or damage to the liver, or inability to more bilirubin from liver through the biliary tract to the gut. There are two types of jaundice (non-obstructive and obstructive jaundice)^[1]. Obstructive jaundice caused by obstruction of the bile duct, as with gallstones and masses. The liver normally produces about 1 liter of bile each day, which is secreted (passed) into the bile duct empties into the upper intestine to help in digestion. Obstruction anywhere causes the blood levels of bilirubin to increase resulting in obstructive jaundice^[2]. The most common causes of non-obstructive jaundice are alcoholic liver disease^[3]. There were other investigations which helped in diagnosis of jaundice such as serum bilirubin, hepatic enzyme, complete blood account, liver biopsy and urine general. Also radiological investigations answering clinical questions and careful review of localizing solid mass, so that ultrasound cover as superior diagnostic tool in patient with obstructive jaundice^[4]. Recent years have witnessed a rapid and continuous evolution in the diagnosis of biliary obstructive disease. Traditional methodologies, such as US (ultrasonography), (CT (computed tomography), ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography) and PTC (percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography), there have been added MRCP (magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography) and CCT (computed tomography), which have prompted a comprehensive review of the whole diagnostic imaging procedure^[5-12]. Ultrasound has been always considered the first choice technique in the study of biliary obstructive disease, due to its accessibility, speed, ease of performance and low cost^[13,14]. This has been even more so in recent years, following the technological evolution of US equipment which, thanks to Tissue Harmonic Imaging (THI), gives better visualization of fluid-filled structures (such as the biliary structures), reduced artifacts, and enhanced contrast resolution^[15,16]. ERCP has been considered the gold standard of biliary structure imaging since its introduction in 1970, and is currently maintaining its therapeutic application.^[17-21]

II. Material and methods:

This is descriptive study deal with role of ultrasound in diagnosis and determines the causes of obstructive jaundice in different hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers in Khartoum State. There were 102 cases had been selected with the technique of non-probability sampling, each patient scanned by an international

scanning guidelines and protocols, by qualified sonologist. Data had been collected using the data collection sheet and analyzed by using computerized programme.

III. Results:

The general characteristics of the sample studied: The majority of patients studied were females (58%), while males present the percent of (42%), Table (1) shows that most of affected patients of the age ranged between 45-75 years old.

Table (1): Age (year) frequency distribution:

Age	Percent
25-45	24.5%
45-75	38.2%
75-95	37.3%
Total	100%

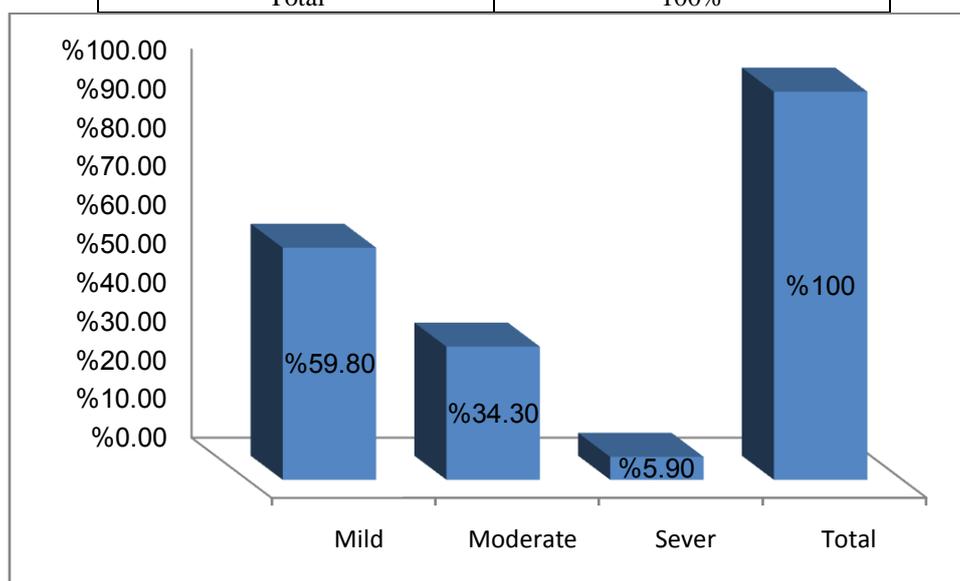


Figure (1) Yellowish color frequency distribution:

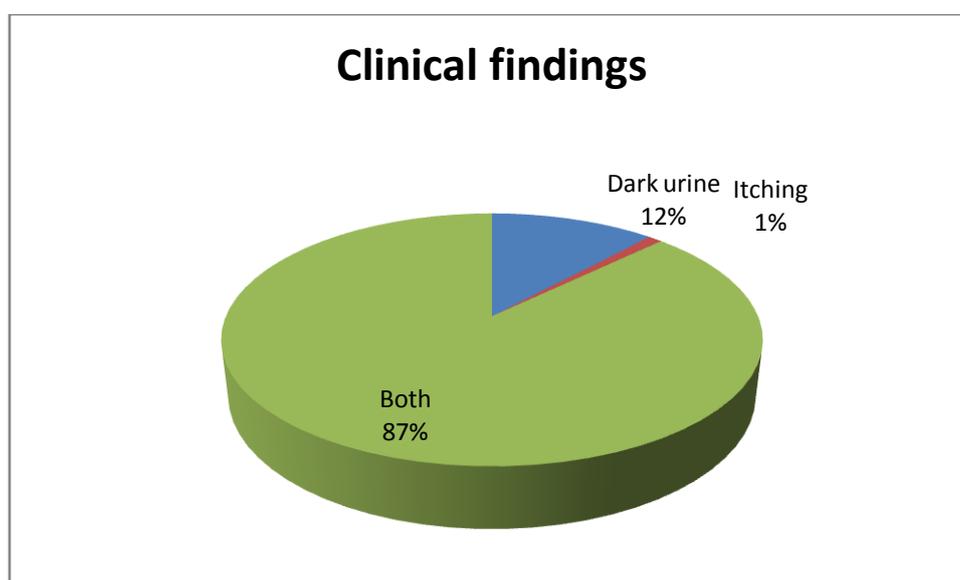


Figure (2) Clinical findings frequency distribution:

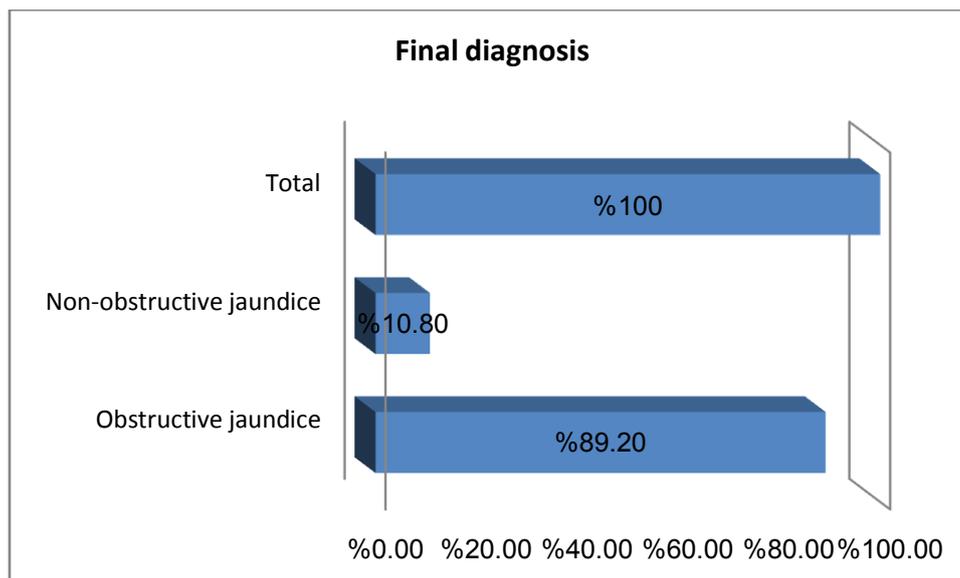


Figure (3): Final diagnosis frequency distribution:

Table (2): Relation between cause of obstruction and age group:

Cause of obstruction	Age			Total
	25-45	45-65	65-85	
Stone	6 5.9%	8 7.8%	6 5.9%	20 19.6%
Mass	8 7.8%	21 20.6%	23 22.4%	52 51%
Other	11 10.8%	10 9.8%	9 8.8%	30 29.4%
Total	25 24.5%	39 38.2%	38 37.5%	102 100%

IV. Discussion

Table (1) shows that most of affected patients of the age above 45 years old 75.5%, because most patients at this age had a previous history of alcohol abusing and schistosomiasis and most female affected by gallbladder stone at age above 40 years

The study showed that the incidence of jaundice increase in female more than male, 58% of female and 42% of male, because female exposed to the drugs like contraceptive device which lead to gallbladder stone, also recurrent pregnancy decrease immunity of female and became more prone to infection. Figure (1) showed that most of the patients had mild yellowish color 59%, and Figure (2) shows 11.8% of patients had dark urine. In this study 28.2% of patient had painless jaundice because most of these patients had been affected with Ca- head of pancreas. Most of the mass appeared as single nodule and represent 94%. There was 25% of the patients complicated with ascites. Table (2) and Figure (3) Showed that obstructive jaundice is mainly caused by masses such as (Ca- head of pancreas) which represent 51% and the stone represent 19%, because the Ca head of pancreas blocked the area of the Ampulla of Vater and distal area of common bile duct thus preventing bile to enter the gallbladder. It was observed that most the level of obstruction was extra hepatic (96%) and the intrahepatic obstruction was 67.1% of the jaundiced patients. There was strong relation between age and causes of obstructive jaundice. The study revealed that the incidence of mass of the head of pancreas increased with advanced age due to decrease of immune and catching of inflammatory diseases. This study showed that the liver with normal parenchyma was 60% and 40% showed changing in the liver parenchyma such as (cirrhosis, hepatitis with change echogenicity of the liver).

V. Conclusion:

The study approved that ultrasound provided significant information about the gallbladder and the biliary ducts and usually differentiate between obstructive jaundice and non-obstructive jaundice, stones. Ultrasound is sensitive in detection of any liver parenchymal changes, also a useful tool to detect any change in gallbladder wall, stones impacted in the common bile duct, tumor of the head of pancreas In jaundiced patients,

ultrasound can detect single nodular masses or any inflammatory changes and also assesses liver size. This study showed that elderly patients more affected and the female affected more than male.

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