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Polyps or abnormal growths of tissues inside the mucous lining of the gallbladder are usually benign and might indicate other gallbladder problems. They can cause inflammation and have a small chance of becoming cancerous, especially in patients with a strong family history of cancer. Surgery is required if the patient presents with symptoms of the growth is deemed to be suspicious or at risk of harbouring cancer.

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## Tumours of the gallbladder and bile ducts

Tumours can form in the bile duct and gallbladder that can cause extrahepatic biliary obstruction or the blockage of the normal bile flow from the liver to the intestinal tract. One of the primary causes of this condition is [gallstones](#).

## Biliary dyskinesia

This is a functional gallbladder disorder that affects the motility of the gallbladder or its ability to move bile out into the bile ducts. Biliary dyskinesia can sometimes affect the sphincter, which is the small muscle located where the bile channel empties into the intestine. When the gallbladder fails to move bile out into the bile ducts normally, the collection of bile can cause the gallbladder to become swollen or fuller.

## Identifying the Red Flags

Symptoms of gallbladder diseases can be silent or significantly pronounced. Common warning signs include:

- Severe abdominal pain, particularly in the right upper quadrant
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever or chills
- Chronic indigestion
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)

## Common Signs and Symptoms

Dr Lee shared that all conditions are different, yet they share common symptoms such as:

- Abdominal pain, specifically in the upper right abdomen
- Bloatingness, indigestion, abdominal discomfort
- Vomiting and nausea
- Fever or chills or rigours
- Jaundice or yellow-tinted skin and eyes
- Tea-coloured or dark urine
- Chronic diarrhoea or oily stools
- Light-coloured pale stools

## Conclusion

Gallbladder diseases present a spectrum of challenges, often emerging silently and catching individuals unaware. As Dr Lee Ser Yee highlights, awareness and understanding of risk factors are crucial in early detection and management. These conditions, ranging from gallstones to more severe ailments like gangrene or tumours, underscore the importance of vigilant health monitoring and prompt medical attention.

Next week, we invite you to delve deeper with us in the second instalment of this interview with Dr Lee Ser Yee, focusing on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies.



## Gerald Ng

Gerald Ng is a seasoned media professional with experience leading media startups across Asia and Europe. Writing has always been his first love and he has more than a decade of journalism experience after falling in love with reading the newspapers daily growing up in Singapore. His works and interviews have appeared in various media publications including Yahoo!, Straits Times and Channel NewsAsia.

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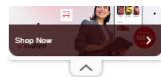
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