Edamame (green soy beans) biliary stones

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DESCRIPTION
We present the case of an 89-year-old tiny woman who presented with a 2-day history of fever. Her medical history included gallbladder stones, hypertension, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis and dementia. Vital signs showed an elevated temperature of 38.3°C and tachypnoea. She was frail with a body weight of 28 kg. There was no abnormality on the abdominal examination. However, abdominal CT scan showed dilation of common bile duct with numerous large-sized stones (figure 1) mimicking ‘edamame’ (figure 2).1

For diagnosis of acute cholangitis associated with common bile duct stones, antibiotics were initiated and endoscopic stone removal was conducted with a complication of retroperitoneal perforation, which was treated conservatively; placement of metal biliary stent was conducted secondarily. After the procedure the patient made a good clinical course and she was eventually discharged home.2

Learning points
▸ Elderly patients with gallbladder stones may develop multiple common bile duct stones masquerading as ‘edamame’.
▸ Multiple common bile duct stones are a common cause for acute cholangitis which may not be associated with abnormality of abdominal examination.
▸ Endoscopic management is also effective for the treatment of multiple common bile duct stones even in extremely elderly patients.

Competing interests None.
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REFERENCES