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iatrogenic lesions of the choledochus: if you know them...you avoid them!” The Problem ..!!!!

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Clinical scenario!!

A 45 years old male , presented abdominal pain, 21 days post cholecystectomy

A Ct Scan has confirmed the presence of an intrabdominal collection

Questions ?

What is the most likely nature of this collection?

What are the most frequent signs and symptoms of CBD injuries ?

Clinical presentation of bile duct injury

Global incidence

- ▶ Bile leak 41%
- ▶ Jaundice 32%
- ▶ Cholangitis 21%
- ▶ Sepsis 2%
- ▶ Abdominal pain 2%
- ▶ Secondary biliary cirrhosis and consequent complications 2%

Sandberg, Ann Surg 1985, Lillemoe, Ann Surg 199, Sicklick, Ann.Surg 2005.

Bile Leak

The incidence of bile leak ranges between 1.3% to 2.7%
(wolf, Arch Surg 1991, walkers, semin ultra CT MR 1993).

May arise from:

- ▶ Cystic duct
- ▶ Subvesical duct (duct of Luschka)
- ▶ Bile duct

Can present as:

- ▶ Intra-abdominal collection
- ▶ Biliary fistula
- ▶ Biliary peritonitis

: è eccezionale una raccolta di bile a così
lunga distanza di tempo dall'intervento

**We may presume that such a
complication 21 days after surgery
is uncommon !!**

Do you agree??

Frequency

When is the most frequent period for bile duct injury manifestation?

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Time of presentation

- ▶ **Intra-operative recognition varies between 0-47%**
(Davidoff Ann.Surg 1992, Lillemoen Ann.Surg 1997, Connor et al, Br J Surg 2006)
- ▶ **60 % of injuries are recognized during the 1st week.**
- ▶ **Median delay in diagnosis is between 1 and 2 weeks** (Carroll et al, Surg Endosc 1998, Keulemans et al, J Am Coll Surg, 1998)
- ▶ **In a series of 6 patients, 3 patients presented with biliary stricture, at 3 weeks, 6 months and 18 months** (Moossa, Ann. Surg 1992)

Recognition of Bile duct injury

In **56591** LC, 235 BDI's were reported (0.42%). Nuzzo et al (Arch Surg 2005)

46% of BDIs were identified intra-operatively

Bile leak 73%

OTC 19,4%

Double stump 7.4%)

54% post-operatively

Biliary fistula/collection 44%.

Bile peritonitism 38%.

Jaundice 18%.

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Table I. Delayed recognition of bile duct injury in LC

<i>Author, year</i>	<i>No. of injuries</i>	<i>Delayed recognition</i>
Woods et al, 1994 ²⁶	81	50 (62%)
Stewart & Way, 1995 ²⁷	85	65 (76%)
Olsen, 1997 ¹⁹	177	129 (73%)
Hugh, 2000 ²⁸	34	27 (79%)

Recognition of the injury was classified as delayed if the surgeon completed the cholecystectomy unaware that an injury had occurred.

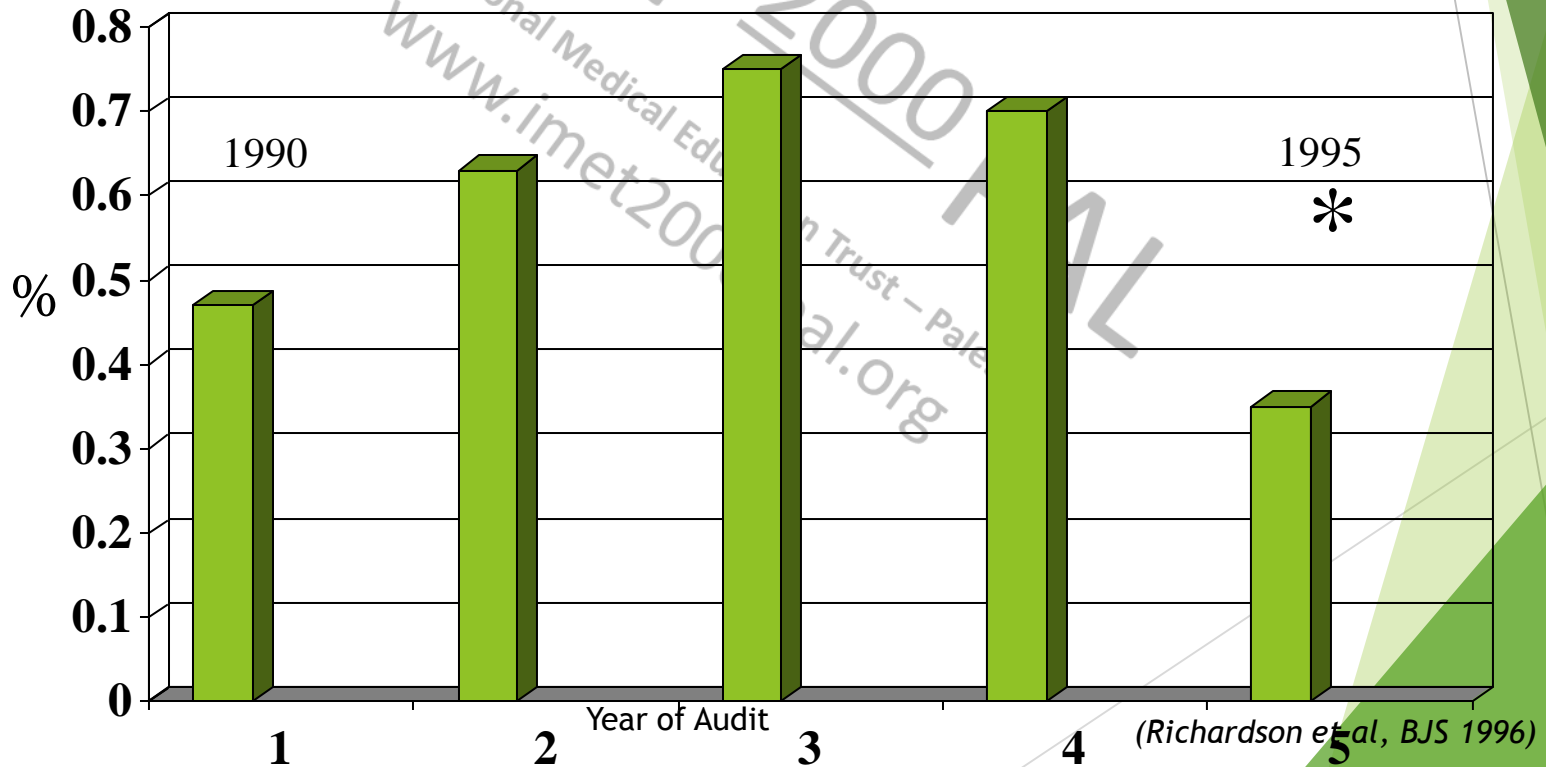
**Is it true that the Global
incidence of bile duct
injury is reducing?**

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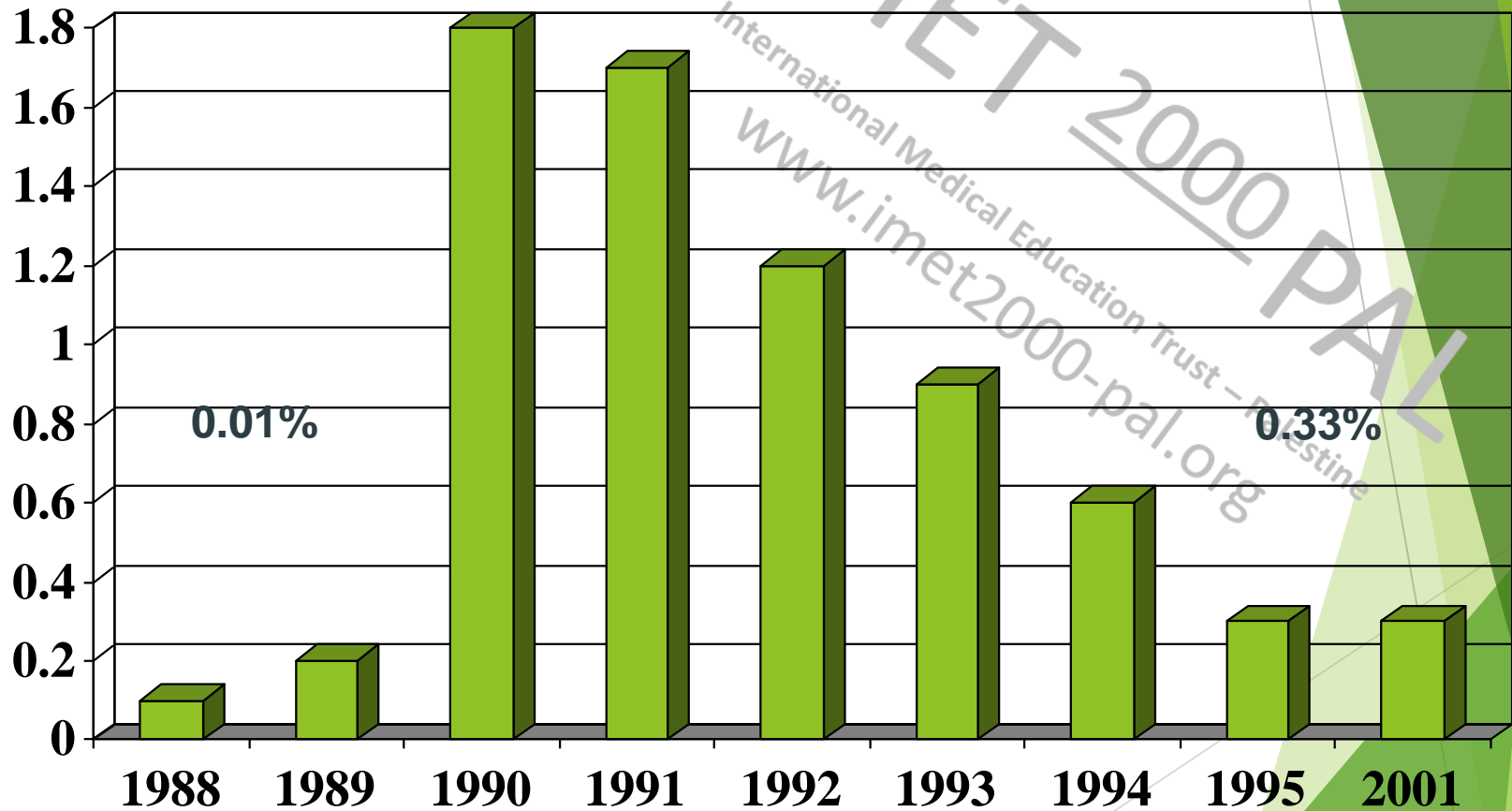
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Bile Duct Injury: The West of Scotland Audit of 5913 Cases

Bile Duct Injury Rate as % of Caseload



Bile Duct Injury Rate (% of cases in the World Literature) 1988-2001



Incidence of Bile duct injury

- In the largest National Italian study, rate of CBDI was 0.42% !!!!!. (Nuzzo et al, Arch Surg 2005)
- In a large Swedish review, incidence of CBDI dropped to 0.33% in 1994, then restarted to increase to levels of 0.47% in 1999 then levelled till 2002 !!!!!. (Waage et al, Arch Surg 2006)

The use of clips has reduced cyst duct leak !!

Is this true?

What are the common
mechanisism..... of injury? And in
what frequency?

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Classification of BDI

- ▶ Bile duct Laceration
 - ▶ (minor <25mm, major >25mm, at CD-CBD junction)
- ▶ Bile duct transection
 - ▶ (complete, incomplete)
- ▶ Bile duct excision
- ▶ Bile duct stricture

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MECHANISMS of BDI

▶ Misidentification of CHD for CD in 66% of cases (Known as the classic Injury)

Davidoff, Ann.Surg 2002

▶ Tenting injury: a portion of BD is clipped and removed

▶ RHD is misidentified as CD, clipped and divided

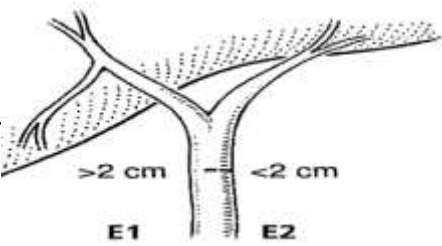
▶ Strictures due to bad use of diathermy or clips.

▶ Lacerations; diathermy, seizure, clips, clip applicators and traction

▶ CD stump leak due to misplaced or displaced clips.

▶ **THE INCIDENCE OF CYSTIC STUMP LEAK INCREASED USING CLIPS IN THE ERA OF LC WHEN COMPARED WITH LIGATION IN OPEN SURGERY.**

Where injuries are more likely to occur?

Type of Injury	Archer, Ann Surg 2001 multicenter	Lillmoe, Ann Surg 1997, tertiary centre	Carroll, Surg Endosc 1998, multi center	Alves, Ann. Surg 2003, Tertiary center
E1 	71%	13%	11%	41%
E2	Included with E1	39%	56%	Included with E1
E3	10%	28%	13%	28%
E4	1.8%	11%	13%	31%
E5	7.5%	5%		Included with E4
Others	10%	4%	7%	

Did Surgical training fail to prevent CBDI ?

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Traditional maxims

- ▶ *No structure should be divided until it is clearly identified (??,??, ??)*
- ▶ *Adequate exposure of Hartmann's pouch and CD junction (neck!!, big/small???, low high ???)*
- ▶ *Operative cholangiography should be routine (prevention recognition ? False assurance ??)*

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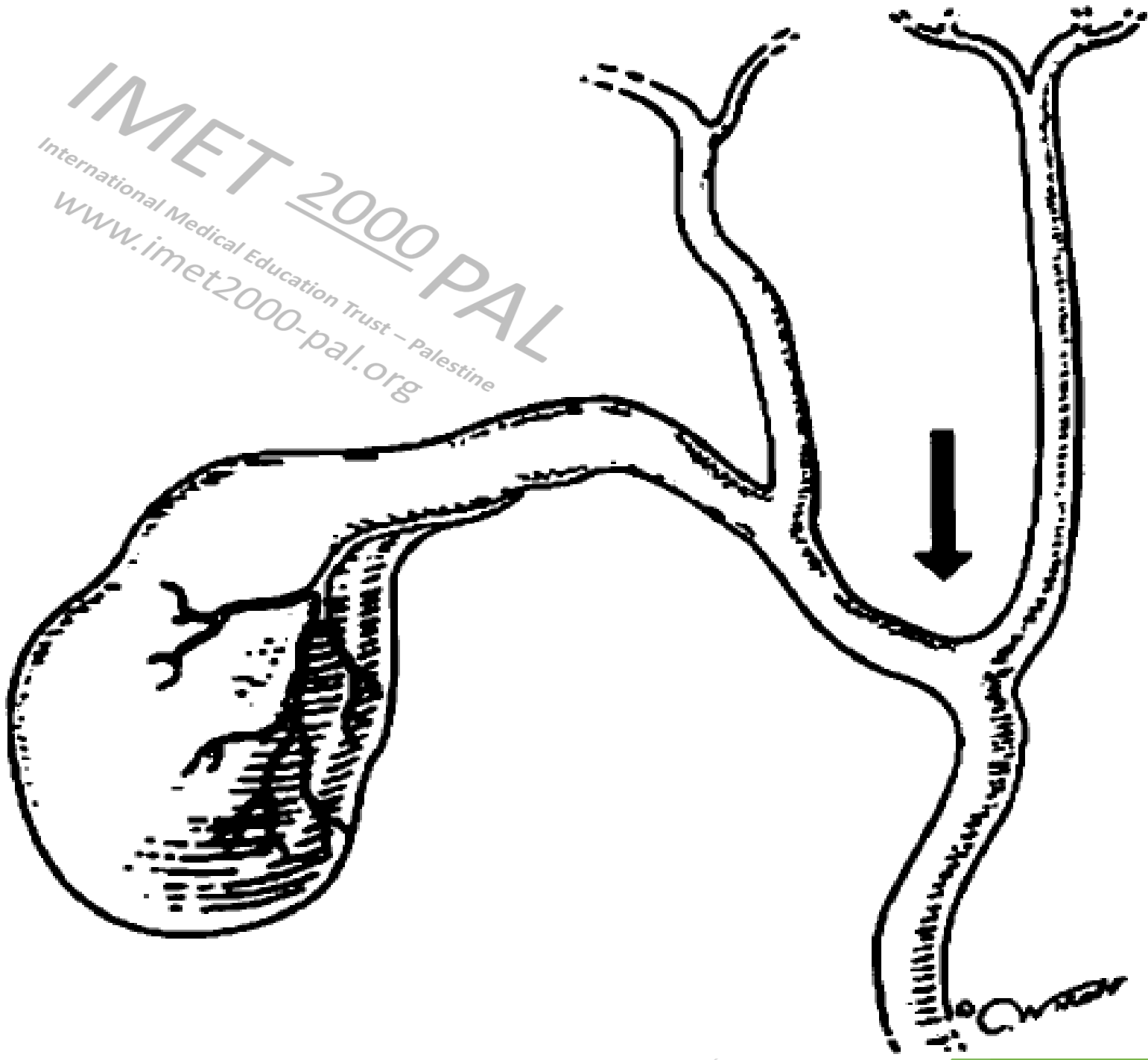
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So what is the problem??

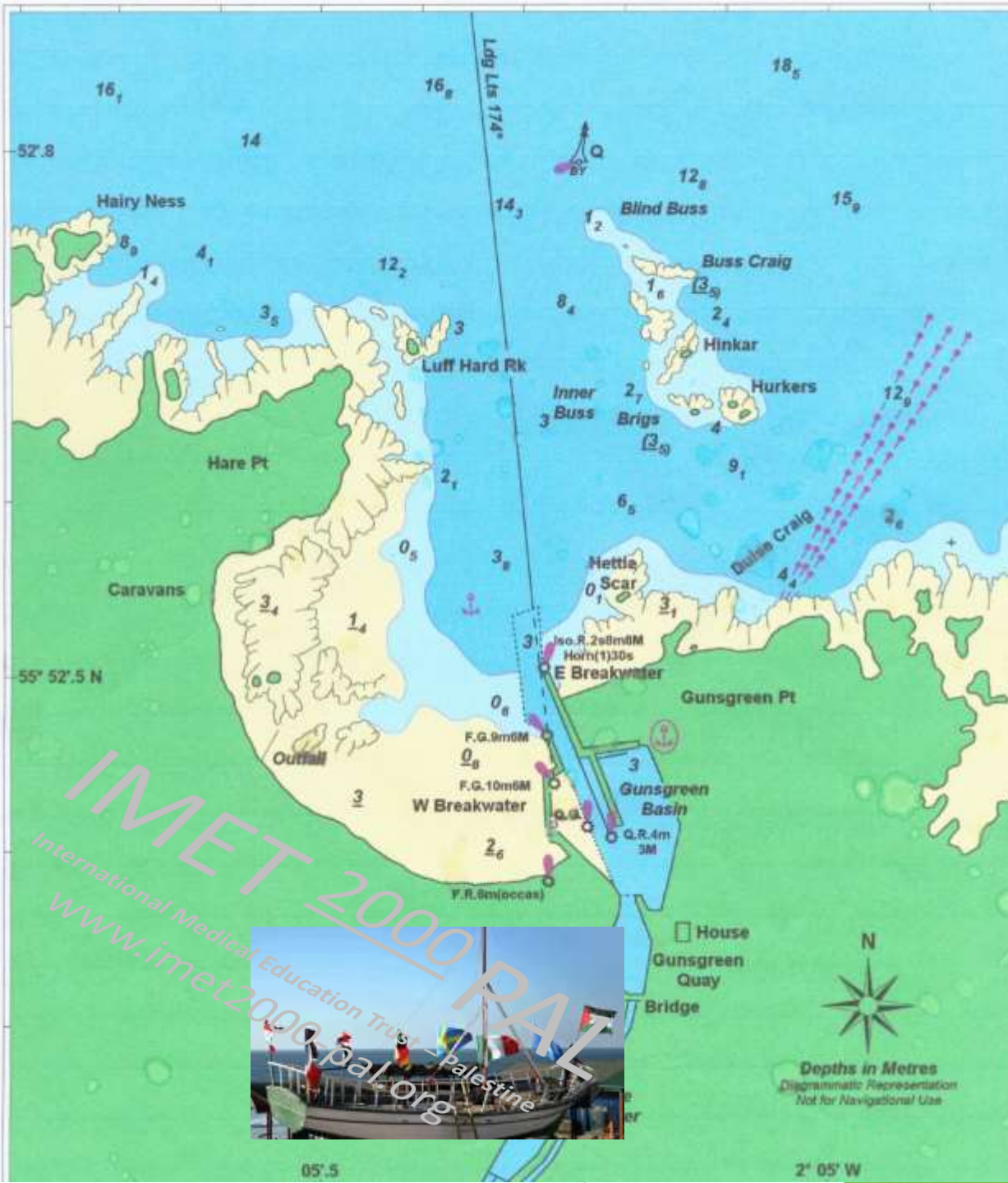
Is it result of imprecise dissection and poor visualization of anatomical structures ??

Is it “person approach” to error ??

Is the term the bad things happen to bad people Correct ?

Does continued experience BDI by trained surgeons, suggests that there may be “systemic” underlying causes related to deficiencies in training and attitudes ??

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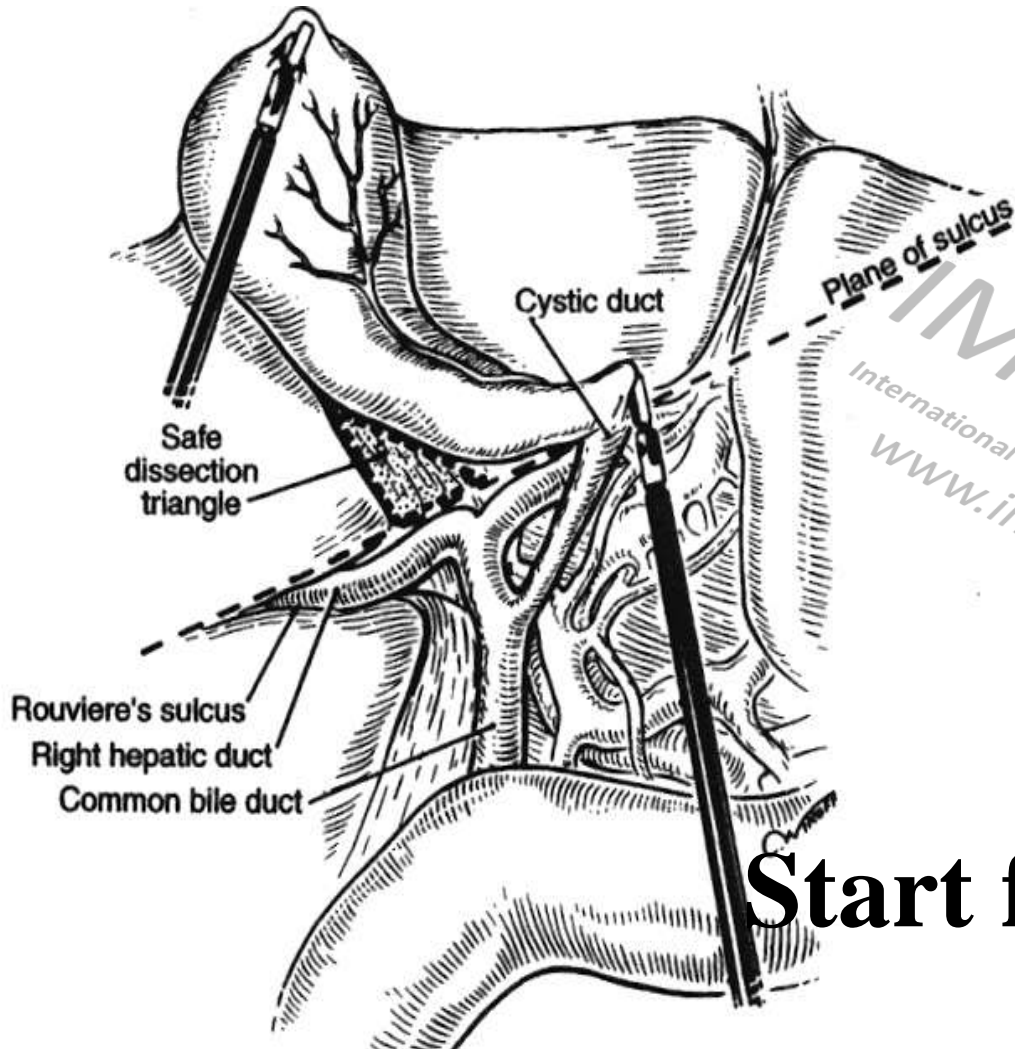
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Depths in Metres
 Diagrammatic Representation
 Not for Navigational Use

Rouvière's sulcus

and the safe dissection plane



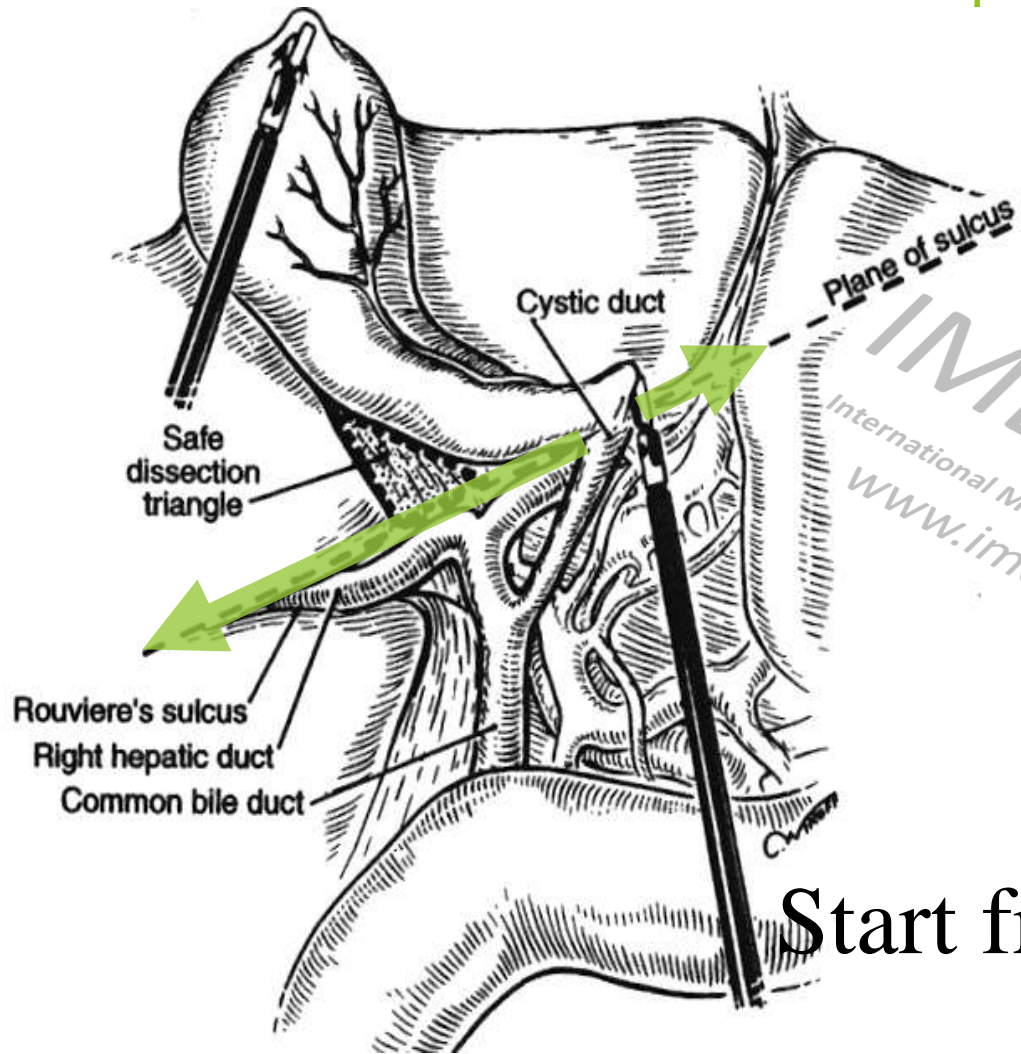
Start from a fixed point

TB Hugh et al. Br J Surg 1997; 84: 1253-4

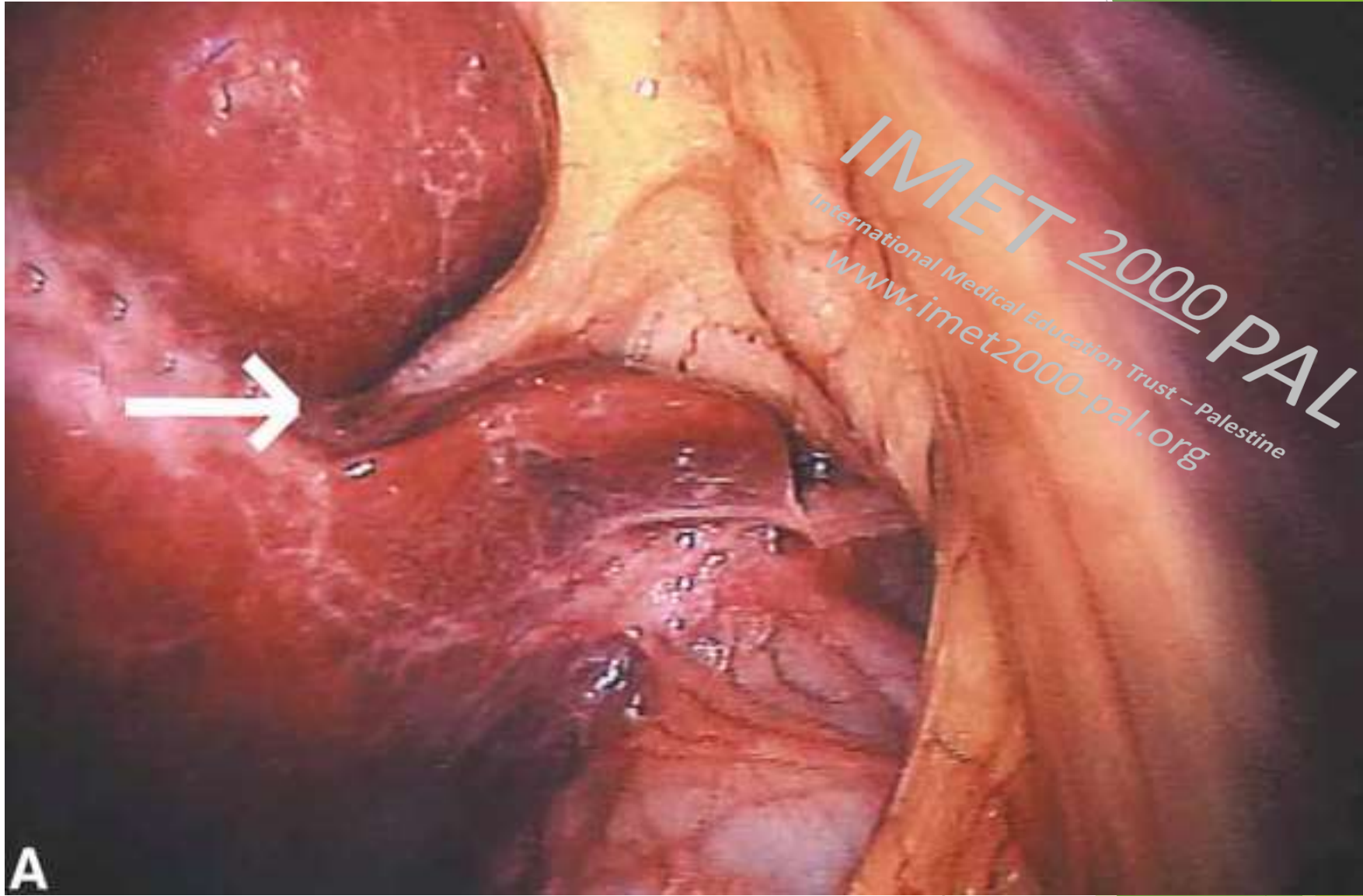
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Rouvière's sulcus

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Start from a fixed point

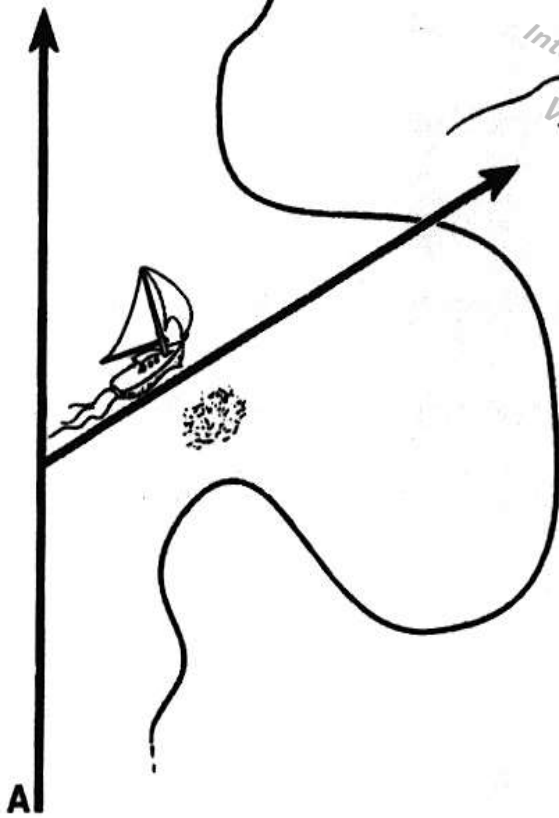


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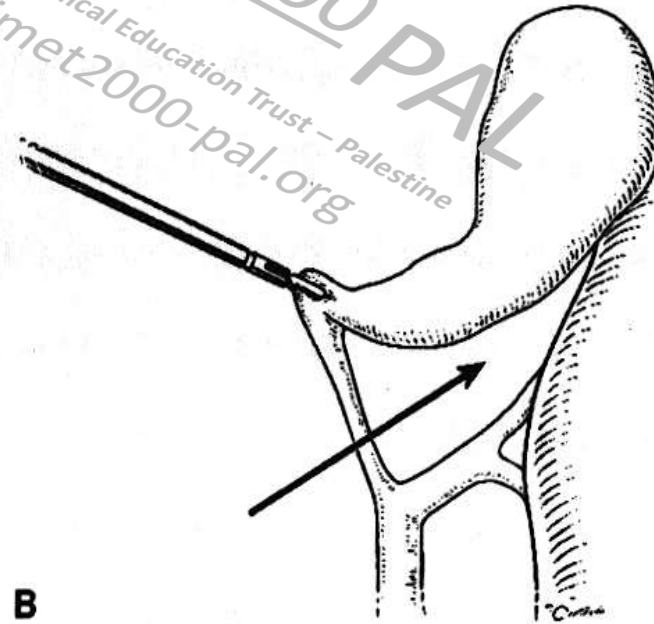
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The clearing bearing principle

Where are you ??



Keep waving

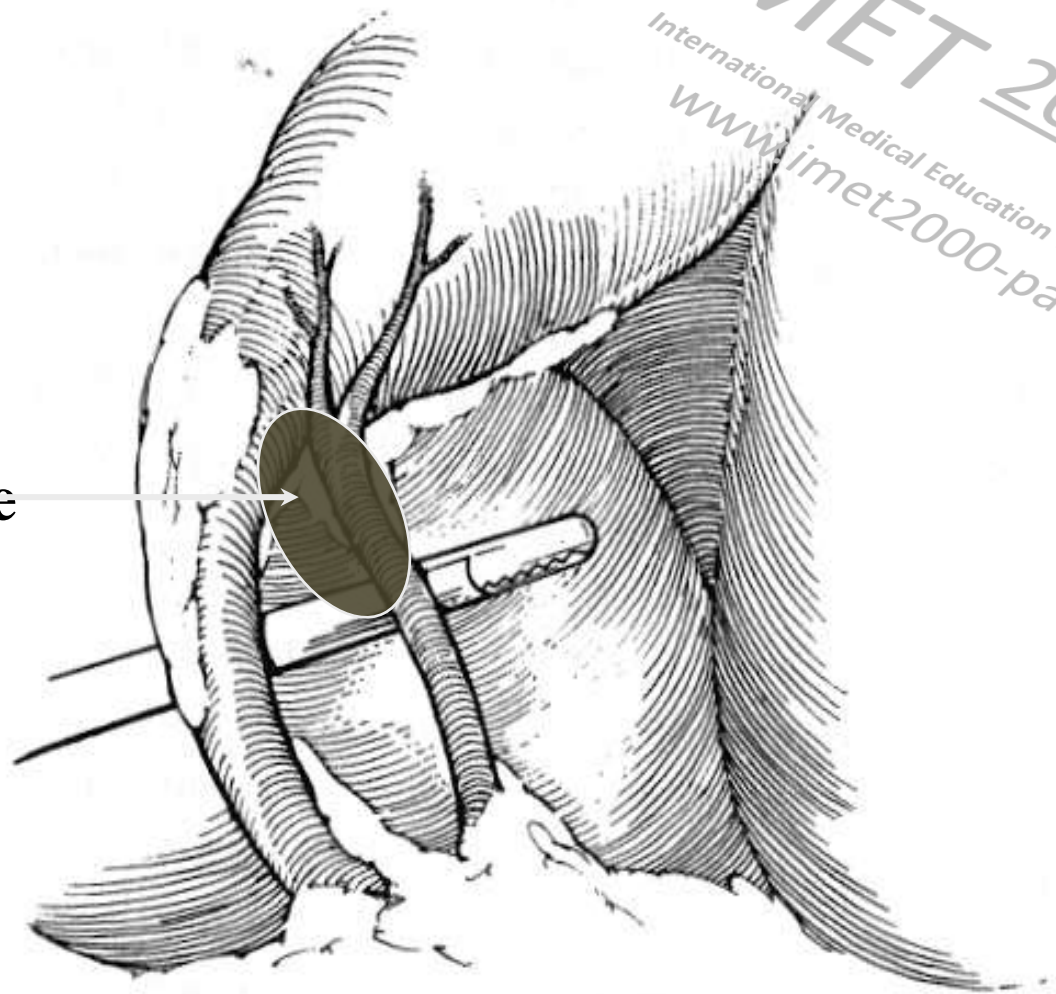


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Navigate away from submerged shoal !!

The critical view of safety

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Miscagni's node

Strasberg et al. J Am Coll Surg 1995; 180: 101-25

Optimizing the critical view of safety in laparoscopic cholecystectomy by clipping and transecting the cystic artery before the cystic duct

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surface area of Calot's triangle following dissection in ten embalmed human bodies

"critical view"

2.6 cm²

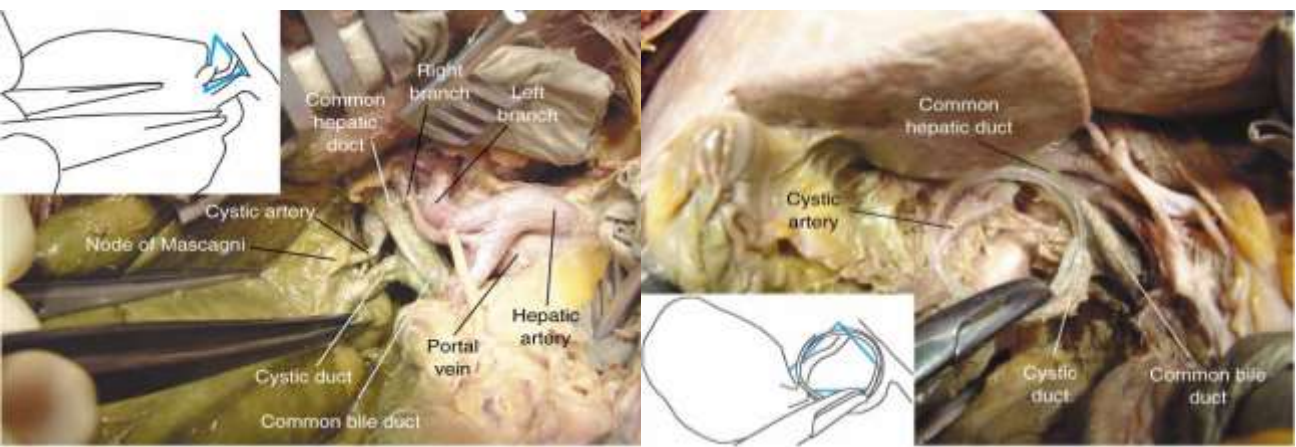


release of GB neck

4.0 cm²

division of cystic artery

6.2 cm²



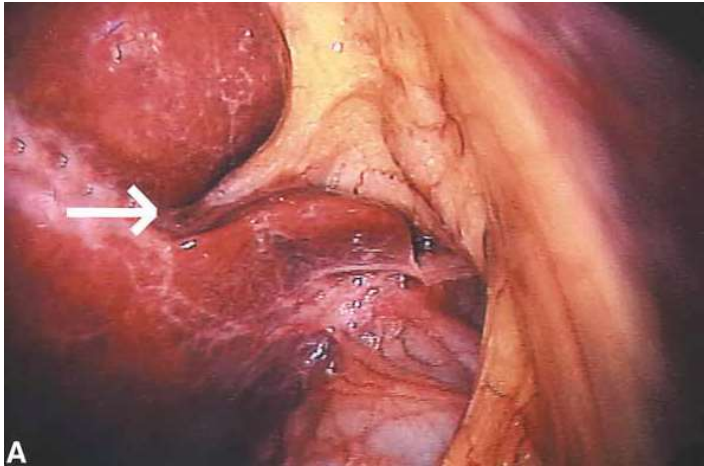
Human factors

Psychological factors in the production of error ?

LC

Highly trained
professional

aircraft cockpit



Complex tasks

Rapid decisions

Conditions of
uncertainty

Disastrous
mistakes

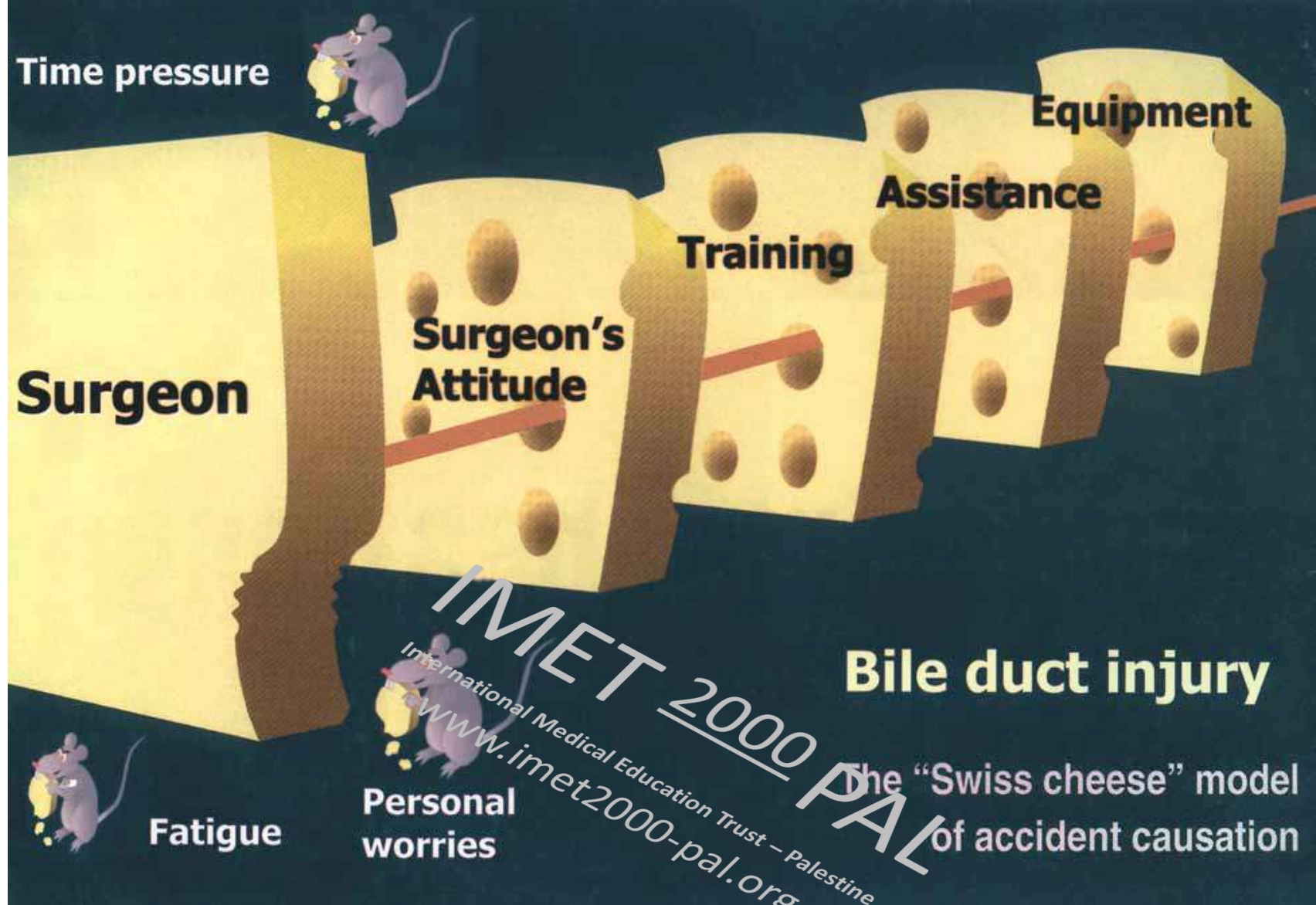


“False hypothesis” “deadly mind set” “Functional fixity”
(to set a hypothesis and work to confirm it)



A surgeon develop functional fixity ... **And reject the evidence !!**

Where is the assistant ?? Do you register the op ??? Do you review it as a team ... Do you take free lessons ??



The Swiss cheese model ... Every hole is a **latent error**.. Leading to the final barrier “ surgeon” .. Any hole is an **ACTIVE ERROR**

The Swiss cheese barrier

Surgical equipment: No quality .. No surgery

Good assistant : Train, encourage and respect

Surgical training

Surgical attitude :

Surgeon's error

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Surgical attitude

A **low risk surgeon** should be:

Well trained, with skills, knowledge, morals and values

Expect unpleasant surprises

Accept input from others, ready to modify hypothesis

Understand the effect of fatigue, time pressure and worries

Encourage others to express their views and respect them.

CONCLUSIONS

CBI is a clinical reality

It may lead to serious disasters

Incidence should be kept $< 0.3\%$

Multi factorial , from equipments to surgeons

No to name and shame philosophy

We need low risk operators and not operators only

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Thank you