

## **The SAGES Safe Cholecystectomy Program - assessment of suitability by european surgeons**

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**Background:** Common bile duct injury (CBDI) is a severe complication of laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC), with 0,1-2% prevalence. To minimize its occurrence, SAGES established Safe Cholecystectomy Program with Critical View Of Safety and 6 rules to follow during this procedure. The study was designed to assess the knowledge of SCP among European surgeons and their opinion on usefulness of its rules. The data were analyzed in terms of differences between residents and specialists.

**Methods:** The knowledge of SCP and opinion on its usefulness was assessed using questionnaires distributed among participants of several surgical conferences in Poland and Denmark. The questionnaire asked about the surgeon's experience in terms of cholecystectomies performed and the number of complications in form of CBDI. It then listed SCP Rules and asked about surgeon's opinion on usefulness of each rule on a 10-point scale. Gathered data were subject to statistical analysis and a comparison between specialists and residents was performed. The study has been registered in the ClinicalTrials.gov-NCT03155321.

**Results:** 184 questionnaires were gathered. 114(61,96%) specialists (72,8%male, mean age 50y) and 70(38,04%) residents (56%male, mean age 34y) completed the questionnaire. Mean work experience was 22years among specialists and 4.5years among residents. A high percentage of specialists have experienced CBDI (46% vs.17% of residents,  $p=0.014$ ). More specialists are accustomed with the SCP than residents (49.3% vs.21.7%, $p=0.021$ ). Significant differences in the mean usefulness score between residents and specialists were observed for three rules: rules 2 and 6 were found more useful by residents (mean score 7.07 vs 6.01,  $p=0.025$  and 8.70 vs 8.27,  $p<0.001$ ), rule 3 was found more useful by specialists (mean 8.73 vs 8.36,  $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** The awareness of the SCP in Europe is still low and needs to be promoted. Both surgical residents and specialists consider the rules of SCP to be useful during surgery, although there are differences in the usefulness scores between the groups. An educational program to promote and further implement the SCP should be established.

**Kategoria:** K2. Wyzwania chirurgii XXI wieku – możliwości i ograniczenia / Operacje z wykorzystaniem technik minimalnie inwazyjnych / Twenty-first century surgery challenges – possibilities and limitations / Operations using minimally invasive techniques