

# 34 stones removed from 58-year-old woman's bile duct

Kailashben Patel was operated for a choledochal cyst that had developed in her bile duct

DILIP THAKER



**Dr Kaushal Anand, who operated Kailashben on Jan 31, said would have developed cancer had the cyst not been removed in time**

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**A** city doctor removed 34 stones, some as big as marbles, from the bile duct of a woman in a hospital here recently.

The patient, Kailashben Patel (58), had developed a choledochal cyst, an abnormal growth in the bile duct, said Dr Kaushal Anand, who operated her on January 31. She was referred to Dr Anand of HCG Medi-Surge Hospital.

However, the symptoms in Kailashben's case showed up very late, which is why such a large number of stones had developed.

Dr Anand said bile ducts in the human body are normally 4 mm thick. But in persons with congenital defects, the ducts begin to inflate with the accumulation of calcium. Such a condition mani-

festes as jaundice or pancreatitis among children and the symptoms are therefore detected early.

The choledochal cyst in Kailashben showed its first symptoms as late as January 17. She complained of stomachache, after which sonography and other tests were conducted on her. The tests revealed a large cluster of stones in her bile duct.

The doctor decided to go in for a very intricate operation. He had to prevent damage to her liver and vessels that supply blood to the heart during the operation. At the end of the seven-hour operation, Dr Anand recovered as many as 34 stones from Kailashben's bile ducts.

She would have developed cancer had the cyst not been removed in time, he said. Medical experts described the incidence as very rare.