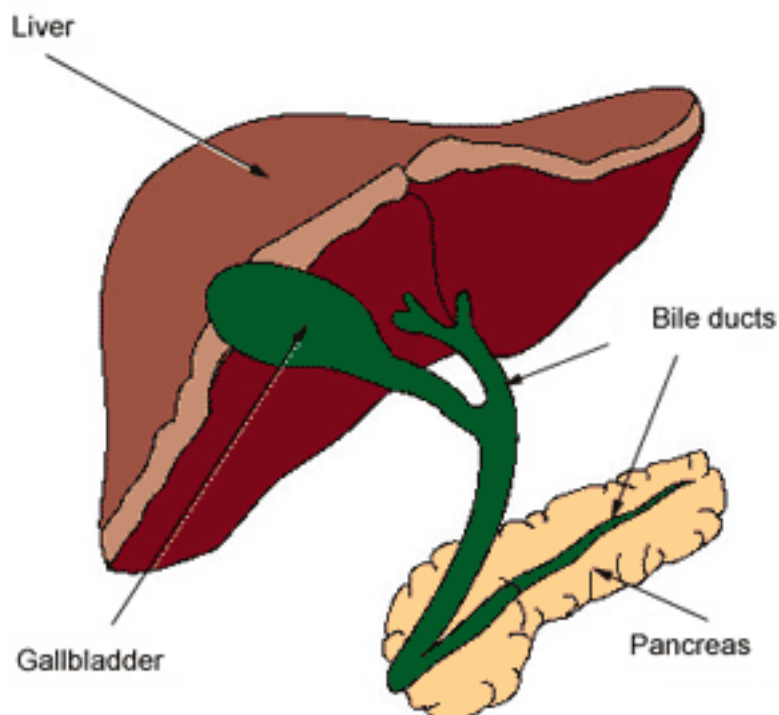


St Anthony's Hospital

Fast Track Gallstone Service

Prompt clinical and radiological assessment for private patients with suspected gallstone related symptoms.

Referrals by General Practitioners will initiate a coordinated and rapid arrangement of ultrasound examination by a Consultant Radiologist followed by a clinical assessment by a Consultant Surgeon during the same visit at St Anthony's Hospital.



Why do we need a Fast Track Gallstone Service?

Delay in treatment of gallstones can result in serious complications. These are preventable by prompt treatment. Ultrasound scanning with immediate clinical assessment prevents avoidable delay in treatment and inconvenience to patients.

How will the gallstones be treated?

Gallstones within the gallbladder are treated by removal of the gallbladder and gallstones together using keyhole surgery (laparoscopic cholecystectomy). To ensure the bile duct is clear of gallstones an X-Ray (cholangiogram) can be performed during the operation.

When will the operation take place?

Surgery can be planned for a convenient time to suit the patient. However, in most circumstances surgery at the earliest opportunity will be recommended. Urgent treatment of patients with acute conditions, e.g. cholecystitis and severe biliary colic, with cholecystectomy is now considered optimal practice and will be recommended when appropriate.

How do I make a referral?

Mr K Marcus Reddy, Consultant Surgeon, will coordinate the service. Please provide a telephone contact number for each patient. Referrals should preferably be made by fax but post is also acceptable.

Urgent referrals for acute conditions can be made by telephone directly with a clinician.

Fax: 020 8181 6748

Tel. (urgent) 07879 082165

Post:

Mr.KM Reddy

Fast Track Gallstone Clinic

St.Anthony's Hospital

North Cheam

Surrey SM3 9DW

Common questions asked by patients

What post-operative course should be expected?

Following surgery to remove the gall bladder by key-hole (laparoscopic) surgery, the patient will be able to go home 1–2 days after the operation and return to full activity and work by 2 weeks. In the event that open surgery is required, the patient should be able to go home 4-5 days after the operation and return to work 3-4 weeks after surgery.

When can driving be resumed?

Patients may resume driving when they can perform an emergency stop comfortably, at approximately 2 to 4 weeks.

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