

Symptoms suggestive of biliary disease

Initial radiological investigation with ultrasound scan

Gallbladder visualised and diagnosis confirmed

Manage as appropriate based on diagnostic findings (e.g. laparoscopic cholecystectomy)

Gallbladder not identified, or reported as shrunken and suggestive of chronic cholecystitis

Further radiological investigation based on local availability

1. MRCP
2. CT
3. ERCP
4. Endoscopic ultrasound

Gallbladder agenesis confirmed

Conservative management with smooth muscle relaxants and sphincterotomy if this fails

Still diagnostic uncertainty

Repeat imaging after the acute phase

MRCP= magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography
ERCP= endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography