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2 **Title:** Quick detection of causative bacteria in cases of acute cholangitis and  
3 cholecystitis using a multichannel gene autoanalyzer

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## 1 **ABSTRACT**

### 2 **Purposes**

3 Acute cholangitis and cholecystitis can become severe conditions as a result  
4 of inappropriate therapeutic administration and also become increasingly  
5 resistant to antimicrobial treatment. Simultaneous detection of the bacterial  
6 nucleic acid and antimicrobial resistance gene is covered by insurance in Japan  
7 for sepsis. In this study, we evaluate the use of a multichannel gene  
8 autoanalyzer (Verigene system) for the quick detection of causative bacteria in  
9 cases of acute cholangitis and cholecystitis.

### 10 **Methods**

11 This study included 108 patients diagnosed with acute cholangitis or  
12 cholecystitis between June 2015 and November 2018. Bacterial culture test and  
13 Verigene assay were used to evaluate the bile samples.

### 14 **Results**

15 The most commonly isolated bacteria were *Escherichia coli* (23.1%), which  
16 includes six extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing *E. coli*.  
17 Among patients with positive bile cultures, bacteria were detected in 35.7% of  
18 cases via the Verigene system. The detection rates of the Verigene system

1 significantly increased when the number of bacterial colonies was  $\geq 10^6$  colony-  
2 forming unit (CFU)/mL (58.1%). Cases with a maximum colony quantity of  $\geq 10^6$   
3 CFU/mL exhibited higher inflammation, suggesting the presence of bacterial  
4 infection.

## 5 **Conclusions**

6 The Verigene system might be a new method for the quick detection of causative  
7 bacteria in patients with infectious acute cholangitis and cholecystitis.

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## 1 **Introduction**

2 Acute cholangitis and cholecystitis are acute inflammatory diseases of the  
3 gallbladder or bile duct [1, 2]. Antimicrobial therapy plays an important role in  
4 managing patients with acute cholangitis and cholecystitis. However, the  
5 emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among clinical isolates has  
6 significantly affected the selection of empirical therapy for patients with intra-  
7 abdominal infections, including acute cholangitis and cholecystitis [3].

8 The Tokyo Guidelines 2018 (TG18) were published to provide guidance on the  
9 management of acute cholangitis and cholecystitis [1, 2]. The TG18 recommend  
10 bile culture to detect causative bacteria and AMR [[3]. However, these tests  
11 typically take about 5 days to confirm antimicrobial susceptibility results.

12 Therefore, we commonly select for initial empirical therapy based on the TG18  
13 recommendation. However, the increase in the incidence of AMR of

14 Enterobacteriaceae has recently become a global problem [4]. Reports have  
15 indicated that the proportion of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-  
16 producing *Escherichia coli* in Japan in all community-acquired and healthcare-  
17 associated infections were 10.6% and 10.7%, respectively [5]. In Korea, ESBL-  
18 producing *E. coli* accounted for 30.4% of *E. coli* cultured from patients with

1 acute cholangitis who underwent biliary drainage at an university medical center  
2 [6]. In medical university hospitals in India, a total of 66% of *E. coli* were ESBL-  
3 producing strains [7]. Moreover, in a university hospital in France, a total of 17%  
4 of patients were found to be carriers of ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae [8].  
5 Therefore, the incidence of resistant bacteria is predicted to further increase  
6 globally in the near future, and selecting antimicrobials as empirical therapy will  
7 be difficult for such cases.

8 At the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) in May  
9 2015, it was reported that the AMR affects all areas of health, including longer  
10 illnesses, increased mortality, prolonged hospital stays, loss of protection for  
11 patients undergoing operations, and other medical procedures, and that it  
12 impacts the society as a whole [9]. Hence, developing reagents that can rapidly  
13 and efficiently diagnose infections is needed. In addition, WHO member  
14 countries are required to develop a national action plan to deal with AMR. In  
15 Japan, a plan was devised in April 2016 to optimize the administration of  
16 antimicrobial agents and reduce AMR [10].

17 In our previous study [11], we performed metagenomic analysis and next-  
18 generation DNA sequencing of bile samples from patients who underwent

1 cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis and were able to comprehensively  
2 determine the causative bacteria. Metagenomic analysis has been reported to  
3 be a new method for detecting the etiological agents of an infectious disease  
4 [12]. Pathogens can be inferred by directly sequencing millions of DNA/RNA  
5 molecules in specimens and matching that sequence in a database [13]. This  
6 method enables the identification of potential causative bacteria and AMR  
7 genes within 2 days. However, a time course of more than 2 days for severe  
8 acute cholangitis is fatal. Therefore, we undertook a study of the use new  
9 devices that provide simultaneous detection of bacterial nucleic acid and AMR  
10 genes to enable faster identification of the causative bacteria and AMR genes.

11 One of these devices is the Verigene system (Nanosphere Inc., Northbrook, IL,  
12 USA), which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in  
13 January 2014 as a multichannel gene autoanalyzer using a microarray method  
14 for the rapid identification of causative agents and AMR genes [14]. In June  
15 2017, the Verigene system became covered by insurance in Japan for the  
16 treatment of bloodstream infection [15]. According to previous studies, using  
17 blood samples from patients with blood infection, the Verigene system showed  
18 high accuracy in identifying the causative bacteria [16-18]. However, the

1 evaluation of a multichannel gene autoanalyzer using bile specimens has not  
2 been reported to date.

3 In the present study, we conducted clinical research to investigate the utility of  
4 the Verigene system for the detection of causative bacteria in bile samples from  
5 patients with acute cholangitis and cholecystitis.

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## 7 **Methods**

### 8 ***Patients***

9 In this study, we retrospectively analyzed consecutive patients who  
10 experienced acute cholangitis and cholecystitis from June 2015 to November  
11 2018. Inclusion criteria consisted of patients who provided written informed  
12 consent, and from whom bile samples could be collected either percutaneously,  
13 intraoperatively, or endoscopically. Meanwhile, exclusion criteria were as  
14 follows: patients who did not provide written informed consent, those from  
15 whom bile samples could not be collected, and patients younger than 20 years.  
16 After applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 108 patients were enrolled in  
17 this study, including 8 patients with acute cholangitis and 100 patients with  
18 acute cholecystitis. The acute cholangitis group did not include patients who



1 had undergone hepaticojejunostomy. We followed the diagnosis and severity  
2 gradings of TG18 for acute cholangitis and cholecystitis [19, 20]. Among the  
3 patients with acute cholangitis, 3 cases were categorized as grade III severity, 4  
4 cases as grade II, and 1 case as grade I; among those with acute cholecystitis,  
5 4 cases were categorized as grade III, 59 cases as grade II, and 37 cases as  
6 grade I.

7 The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Toho University  
8 Ohashi Medical Center (approval nos., 14-58, H16045, and H17077) and  
9 conducted in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

10

### 11 ***Bile samples collection***

12 As recommended by TG18, empirical antimicrobial therapy was initiated after  
13 the diagnosis of acute cholangitis and cholecystitis [2, 3]. Based on the patient's  
14 conditions, the therapeutic strategy was decided on, such as percutaneous  
15 drainage, endoscopic drainage, or surgery. The median duration from initiation  
16 of antimicrobial therapy to bile sample collection was 15 hours (range, 0–512  
17 hours). With regard to the method of bile sample collection, among the patients  
18 with acute cholangitis, 7 have underwent endoscopic and 1 underwent

1 percutaneous collection, whereas in the acute cholecystitis group, 87 patients  
2 underwent intraoperative, 4 patients endoscopic, and 9 patients percutaneous  
3 collection. Bile samples were aseptically collected during surgery or via biliary  
4 drainage and divided into three anaerobic porters (Kenki porter<sup>®</sup>). One porter  
5 was immediately transferred to the microbiological department for conventional  
6 culture and antimicrobial susceptibility tests; the others were immediately frozen  
7 at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for assessment using the multichannel gene autoanalyzer. In the  
8 retrospective Verigene analysis, we used the thawed bile sample in the  
9 Verigene system assay.

10 According to the number of isolated bacterial species, the cultured samples  
11 were classified into two groups: monomicrobial and polymicrobial.

12 Monomicrobial refers to samples in which only one species of bacteria was  
13 isolated in the bile culture, whereas polymicrobial refers to samples with  
14 multiple species.

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### 16 ***Verigene system assays***

17 Among the gram-positive bacteria, we simultaneously detected 12 bacterial  
18 species (*Staphylococcus* spp., *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus*

1 *epidermidis*, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis*, *Streptococcus* spp., *Streptococcus*  
2 *pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*,  
3 *Streptococcus anginosus* group, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus faecium*,  
4 and *Listeria* spp.) and three AMR genes (*mecA*, *vanA*, and *vanB*). In the gram-  
5 negative bacteria, we detected nine bacterial species (*Acinetobacter* spp.,  
6 *Citrobacter* spp., *Enterobacter* spp., *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella*  
7 *oxytoca*, *Proteus* spp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Serratia marcescens*)  
8 and six AMR genes (CTX-M, KPC, NDM, VIM, IMP, and OXA beta-lactamase  
9 genes) [16]. In addition, it took less than 2.5 hours to obtain the results. We  
10 performed the Verigene assay and analyzed the results based on the usual  
11 methods for sepsis [16, 21]. The Verigene Processor Sp was inset to the  
12 extraction tray, utility tray, and test cartridge. The dissolved bile (gram-positive,  
13 350  $\mu$ L; gram-negative, 700  $\mu$ L) was then transferred to a specimen well located  
14 in the extraction tray, and the Verigene processor was initiated. Nucleic acids  
15 from the bile were extracted and hybridized to a microarray. After 2 hours, the  
16 microarray was transferred to the Verigene reader for analysis. The Verigene  
17 processor was opened after automated nucleic acid extraction and hybridization  
18 to a glass array, and the array was transferred to the Verigene reader for

1 automated reporting of analysis and qualitative results. The Verigene assay  
2 includes controls for nucleic acid extraction and array hybridization [6, 16].

3

#### 4 ***Antimicrobial susceptibility testing***

5 Antimicrobial susceptibility test was performed according to NegEN Combo 1T  
6 panels (Microscan Walkaway 96SI; Siemens) in accordance with the criteria of  
7 the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute [22]. A disk-diffusion test  
8 detected ESBL using cefotaxime, ceftazidime, and cefpodoxime with or without  
9 clavulanate.

10

#### 11 ***Statistical analysis***

12 Statistical analysis was conducted using the Fisher's exact test for categorical  
13 data and the Mann–Whitney *U* test and Kruskal–Wallis test for continuous data.  
14 Results were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. Statistical significance  
15 was defined as  $P < 0.05$ . All statistical analyses were performed using EZR for  
16 Windows, version 14.1 [23].

17

#### 18 **Results**

1 We enrolled 108 patients in the present study; microorganisms could be  
2 cultured in 56 cases (51.9%). **Table 1** shows patient characteristics in the bile  
3 culture-positive and culture-negative groups. There was a significant difference  
4 between groups in age, American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status  
5 (ASA-PS), age-adjusted Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI), body temperature  
6 (BT), and total bilirubin. We performed blood culture testing in 19 cases, with  
7 bacteremia diagnosed in seven cases. No mortality was recorded in this study.  
8 In addition, among those underwent surgery for acute cholecystitis, no  
9 postoperative complication was observed.

10 **Table 2** presents the details of the bacterial species isolated in this study. Of  
11 these 56 samples, polymicrobial species were cultured from 23 samples.  
12 Finally, a total of 104 strains were isolated. The number of identified bacterial  
13 species among the polymicrobial species was as follows: 10 samples with 2  
14 species, 10 samples with 3 species, and 3 samples with more than 4 species.  
15 Twenty-seven strains, which were not able to be identified by Verigene, mainly  
16 included anaerobic microorganisms and *Candida* spp. The other 77 strains  
17 included 60 gram-negative (57.8%) and 17 gram-positive (16.3%) strains. The  
18 bacterial isolates were mainly Enterobacteriaceae, including *E. coli* (23.1%),

1 *Klebsiella* spp. (20.2%), *Enterobacter* spp. (10.6%), *Streptococcus* spp. (8.7%),  
2 *Enterococcus* spp. (7.7%), and *Clostridium* spp. (10.6%). In addition, 6 (25%) of  
3 the 24 *E. coli* strains were determined to be ESBL-producing *E. coli*. Other AMR  
4 such as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, vancomycin resistant  
5 *Enterococci*, and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* were not observed  
6 in this study.

7 **Table 3** shows the results of the Verigene assay in relation to the results of the  
8 bile culture. In the bile culture-positive group, the same bacteria were  
9 significantly identified by Verigene assay in 20 (35.7%) of the cases. In the bile  
10 culture-negative group, no bacteria were identified by Verigene assay in 52  
11 (100%) of the cases. Among the ESBL-producing *E. coli*, four of the six (66.7%)  
12 strains were detected as having the CTX-M gene. In the monomicrobial group,  
13 the same bacteria were identified by Verigene assay in 14 (42.4%) of the cases.  
14 However, in the polymicrobial group, all bacteria were identified by Verigene  
15 assay in six (26.1%) of the cases.

16 We performed additional quantitative analysis by the Verigene system using 1+  
17 ( $10^6$  colony-forming unit (CFU)/mL) as the boundary, based on the results of the  
18 bile culture test in the hospital. **Table 4** shows the comparison of the number of

1 bacterial colonies in the bile culture based on the Verigene analysis.  
2 Monomicrobial was detected in 15 cases (48.4%), with a maximum colony  
3 quantity greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL group and in 18 cases (72.0%) with a  
4 maximum colony quantity lower than  $10^6$  CFU/mL group. Using the Verigene  
5 assay, bile cultures with a maximum colony quantity greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL  
6 indicated a significantly higher detection rate (58.1%;  $p < 0.001$ ). In addition,  
7 with regard to patient characteristics, the presence of bactibilia with a maximum  
8 colony quantity of greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL was significantly associated with  
9 higher BT levels (**Table 5**). In addition, the CRP value tended to be higher in this  
10 group; however, no statistically significant difference was noted.

11 **Table 6** shows a comparison of patient backgrounds between the Verigene  
12 positive and negative groups. Age and CRP level were determined to be higher  
13 in the Verigene positive group, as compared with the Verigene negative group;  
14 however, we did not observe a statistically significant difference.

15

## 16 **Discussion**

17 In the present study, we evaluated the multichannel gene autoanalyzer  
18 Verigene using bile samples from patients with acute cholangitis and

1 cholecystitis. Our results show that Verigene was able to identify 35.7% of  
2 bacteria in the bile culture-positive samples. In particular, the sensitivity was  
3 significantly increased when the quantity of bacteria was greater than  $10^6$   
4 CFU/mL. Furthermore, in patients with a bacterial quantity greater than  $10^6$   
5 CFU/mL, the BT and CRP levels were more likely to be higher.

6 The AMR of Enterobacteriaceae has been widely reported to be a causative  
7 microorganism of community-acquired intra-abdominal infections [24]. In  
8 particular, bacteria that produce ESBL and carbapenemase (i.e., metallo-beta-  
9 lactamase and non-metallo-beta-lactamase) have a significant effect on the  
10 choice of empirical treatment for patients with intra-abdominal infection,  
11 including acute cholangitis and cholecystitis [25]. In a prospective cohort study  
12 in 567 patients with acute cholecystitis involving 116 institutions worldwide,  
13 researchers showed that 16 of 96 isolated *E. coli* (16.7%) produced ESBL [26].  
14 The TG18, the international practice guidelines for acute cholangitis and  
15 cholecystitis, summarizes the antimicrobial agents to be used in patients with  
16 community-acquired and healthcare-associated acute cholangitis and  
17 cholecystitis [3]. In addition, the antimicrobial agents recommended for  
18 community-acquired infections are classified based on the severity grading.



1 Asai et al. [27] reported significant differences in patient characteristics (age,  
2 BT, and CRP) in the bile culture-positive cases. In addition, in the evaluation of  
3 comorbidities, we found significant differences in ASA-PS and age-adjusted CCI  
4 in the bile culture-positive cases in this study. The TG18 lists the bacteria  
5 commonly found in biliary tract infections [3]. The most frequently isolated  
6 bacteria are *E. coli*, followed by *Klebsiella* spp. In gram-positive bacteria,  
7 *Enterococcus* spp. and *Streptococcus* spp. were frequently isolated. These  
8 findings are similar to the results of our study. With regard to the isolation of  
9 AMR, ESBL-producing *E. coli* was isolated in 25% of cases in this study. We did  
10 not observe any other evidence of antimicrobial resistance.

11 We showed that the Verigene assay has 35.7% sensitivity and 100%  
12 specificity for identifying the causative agent and 66.7% sensitivity and 100%  
13 specificity for identifying CTX-M. Previous studies have evaluated the Verigene  
14 assay in sepsis [28, 29]. Those studies reported a sensitivity as high as 96.3%–  
15 97.4% when using blood samples. The result of the Verigene assay for bile  
16 samples was less sensitive than that of blood samples. In addition, our study  
17 showed a decrease in sensitivity to 26.1% in polymicrobial cultures as  
18 compared with monomicrobial cultures, although we did not observe a

1 significant difference. In a previous study, Ledebøer et al. [16] reported a  
2 reduced detection rate of multiple molecular assays, including the Verigene  
3 assay, in polymicrobial cultures. Dodemont et al. [30] reported that false-  
4 negative findings in the presence of a polymicrobial are due to the signal  
5 interference between multiple capture probes on the array or to low quantity  
6 near the limit of detection. In this present study, 23 samples (21.3%) were  
7 determined to be polymicrobial, which was considered to one of the reasons for  
8 the decrease in sensitivity.

9 There has been no previous evaluation study of the Verigene assay using bile  
10 samples; thus, we were unable to compare our results with those of other  
11 studies. However, we speculated that the result might be related to the quantity  
12 of bacteria in the bile. Comparison of Verigene assay results with a maximum  
13 colony quantity in bile culture showed that the sensitivity was significantly higher  
14 (58.1%) in patients with greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL in bile culture. Typically, in  
15 blood stream infections, blood samples are incubated until the blood cultures  
16 are positive before the test [6, 16, 21]. On the other hand, in our study, we  
17 expected that the quantity of bacteria in the bile would be lower than in blood  
18 samples, because the bile was not preincubated to prevent the growth of

1 polymicrobial that are naturally present in the bile. Therefore, it is possible that,  
2 in our study, the Verigene assay was unable to detect bile samples with low  
3 bacterial quantity. According to Nanosphere Inc., the limit of detection of the  
4 Verigene assay ranges from  $10^5$  to  $10^7$  CFU/mL [31], which is similar to our  
5 findings.

6 As compared to this study, the 58.1% sensitivity in our study is by no means  
7 high. Based on the limits of the Verigene assay, a comparison of patient  
8 characteristics and colony quantity showed higher inflammation in samples with  
9 a maximum colony quantity of greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL in bile culture. In our  
10 previous study, we reported that higher inflammation factors, including older age  
11 ( $\geq 65$  years), elevated BT ( $\geq 37.5$  °C), and high serum CRP levels ( $\geq 13$  mg/dL),  
12 were significant risk factors for positive bile cultures [27]. Therefore, our results  
13 suggest that a maximum colony quantity of greater than  $10^6$  CFU/mL in bile  
14 culture could indicate infectious acute cholangitis and cholecystitis. Moreover, in  
15 such cases, the Verigene assay could enable the quick detection of the  
16 causative bacteria, which may be very useful in actual clinical practice.  
17 However, the Verigene assay is not adequately sensitive, so even if Verigene is  
18 negative for bactibilia, the physician should use clinical judgment to determine

1 the presence of infectious cholangitis and cholecystitis in patients of older age,  
2 with high BT, and with high CRP levels to administer the appropriate  
3 antimicrobial agents.

4 The quick detection of causative bacteria in acute cholangitis and cholecystitis  
5 using Verigene is expected to be a breakthrough diagnostic method in the  
6 future, and if this diagnostic method is standardized, it is expected to result in  
7 great progress in the selection of antimicrobial agent. However, this study has  
8 some limitations: (1) This study was conducted retrospectively and the number  
9 of cases was small. These factors led to the low sensitivity of the Verigene  
10 assay. Thus, future studies are needed to prospectively collect more cases and  
11 reevaluate the sensitivity of this assay. (2) The bile samples were frozen and  
12 thawed during the test. This differs from the actual clinical practice, in which the  
13 bile is immediately used after collection. (3) Currently, there is no panel in the  
14 Verigene system to detect anaerobic bacteria. Therefore, we excluded  
15 anaerobic bacteria including *Bacteroides* spp. and *Clostridium* spp. from the  
16 evaluation. In the future, it is expected that reagent development for anaerobic  
17 bacteria will be required.

18 In conclusion, the multichannel gene autoanalyzer Verigene system is a new

1 device that might be used to rapidly detect the causative bacteria in patients  
2 with infectious acute cholangitis and cholecystitis.

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#### 13 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

14 The authors declare no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript.

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1 **Table Legends**

2 **Table 1** Patient characteristics according to the bile culture results

3 **Table 2** List of bacterial species isolated from the bile culture

4 **Table 3** Results of the Verigene assay in relation to the bile culture results

5 **Table 4** Correlation between the maximum colony quantity of the strain

6 isolated in bile culture and results of the Verigene assay

7 **Table 5** Correlation between the maximum colony quantity of the strain

8 isolated in the bile culture and patient characteristics

9 **Table 6** Patient characteristics according to the Verigene results

**Table 1: Patient characteristics according to the bile culture results**

| <b>Factor</b>  | <b>Bile culture positive (n=56)</b> | <b>Bile culture negative (n=52)</b> | <b>p</b>          |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Primary disease (Cholecystitis / Cholangitis)</b>                               | Aug-48                              | 52 / 0                              | <b>0.006</b>      |
| <b>Methods of the bile collection (Intraoperative / Endoscopic / Percutaneous)</b> | 43 / 10 / 3                         | 44 / 1 / 7                          | <b>0.009</b>      |
| Sex (M / F)  | 32 / 24                             | 30 / 22                             | 1.000             |
| <b>Age (years)</b>   | 74 (31 - 93)                        | 67 (30 - 93)                        | <b>0.029</b>      |
| <b>ASA-PS</b>  | 2 (1 - 4)                           | 2 (1 - 4)                           | <b>0.021</b>      |
| <b>Charlson comorbidity index</b>  | 5 (0 - 11)                          | 3 (0 - 11)                          | <b>0.003</b>      |
| Severity of TG18 (Grage I / II / III)  | 15 / 36 / 5                         | 23 / 27 / 2                         | 0.141             |
| <b>Body Temparture (°C)</b>  | 38.1 (36.4 - 39.7)                  | 37.6 (36.7 - 38.8)                  | <b>&lt; 0.001</b> |
| White blood cell (/µl)   | 11,500 (5,600 - 32,700)             | 12,500 (4,900 - 26,400)             | 0.837             |
| C-reactive protein (mg/dL)   | 12.62 (0.04 - 39.48)                | 7.62 (0.07 - 34.00)                 | 0.190             |
| <b>T-Bil (mg/dL)</b>   | 1.7 (0.7 - 8.4)                     | 1.4 (0.5 - 4.6)                     | <b>0.040</b>      |
| <b>Blood culture test (Present / Absent)</b>                                       | 15 / 41                             | 4 / 48                              | <b>0.011</b>      |
| Blood culture positive (Positive / Negative)                                       | 6 / 9                               | 1 / 3                               | 1.000             |
| Duration antimicrobial treatment before bile collection (h)                        | 12 (0 - 440)                        | 21 (0 - 512)                        | 0.236             |
| Duration from onset to admission (h)   | 26 (0 - 432)                        | 19 (0 - 268)                        | 0.624             |
| Duration from admission to bile collection (h)                                     | 16 (0 - 351)                        | 23 (1 - 528)                        | 0.107             |
| Duration from onset to bile collection (h)   | 51 (4 - 528)                        | 59 (3 - 528)                        | 0.481             |

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**Table 2: List of bacterial species isolated from the bile culture**

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| Gram negative bacteria (n=60 strains) |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Escherichia coli</i>               | 24   |
| ESBL producing <i>E. coli</i>         | (6)  |
| <i>Klebsiella spp.</i>                | 21   |
| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>          | (16) |
| <i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>             | (5)  |
| <i>Enterobacter spp.</i>              | 11   |
| <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>           | (8)  |
| <i>Proteus spp.</i>                   | 1    |
| <i>Citrobacter freundii</i>           | 3    |

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| Gram positive bacteria (n=17 strains) |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Enterococcus spp.</i>              | 8 |
| <i>Streptococcus spp.</i>             | 9 |

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| Other (n=27 strains)            |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Clostridium spp.</i>         | 11  |
| <i>Clostridium perfringense</i> | (9) |
| <i>Bacteroides spp.</i>         | 3   |
| Others                          | 13  |

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**Table 3: Results of the Verigene assay in relation to the bile culture results**

|                              | Verigene positive (n=20) | Verigene negative (n=88) | <i>p</i>          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bile culture positive (n=56) | 20                       | 36                       | <b>&lt; 0.001</b> |
| Bile culture negative (n=52) | 0                        | 52                       |                   |

  

|                      | Verigene positive (n=20) | Verigene negative (n=36) | <i>p</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Monomicrobial (n=33) | 14                       | 19                       | 0.264    |
| Polymicrobial (n=23) | 6                        | 17                       |          |

**Table 4: Correlation between the maximum colony quantity of the strain isolated in bile culture and results of the Verigene assay**

| Maximum colony quantity (CFU/mL)<br>[Mono / Polymicrobial] | Verigene positive (n=20)<br>[Mono / Polymicrobial] | Verigene negative (n=36)<br>[Mono / Polymicrobial] | <i>P</i>          |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| $\geq 10^6$ (n=31)<br>[15 / 16]                            | 18<br>[12 / 6]                                     | 13<br>[3 / 10]                                     | <b>&lt; 0.001</b> |
| $< 10^6$ (n=25)<br>[18 / 7]                                | 2<br>[2 / 0]                                       | 23<br>[16 / 7]                                     |                   |

**Table 5: Correlation between the maximum colony quantity of the strain isolated in bile culture and patient characteristics**

| Factors                     | Maximum colony quantity (CFU/mL)               |   |                                 | <i>p</i>          |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|
|                             | Bile culture positive<br>$\geq 10^6$<br>(n=31) | Bile culture positive<br>$< 10^6$<br>(n=25) | Bile culture negative<br>(n=52) |                   |
| Sex (M / F)                 | 15 / 16  | 17 / 8                                      | 30 / 22                         | 0.356             |
| Age                         | 69 (31 - 93)                                   | 76 (37 - 89)                                | 67 (30 - 93)                    | 0.091             |
| <b>Body temparture (°C)</b> | 38.2 (36.4 - 39.7)                             | 37.9 (37.1 - 39.6)                          | 37.6 (36.7 - 38.8)              | <b>&lt; 0.001</b> |
| White blood cell (/μl)      | 11,500 (5,600 - 32,700)                        | 11,700 (6,200 - 25,900)                     | 12,500 (4,900 - 26,400)         | 0.644             |
| C-reactive protein (mg/dL)  | 14.34 (0.04 - 28.52)                           | 9.49 (0.05 - 39.48)                         | 7.62 (0.07 - 34.00)             | 0.352             |

**Table 6: Patient characteristics according to the Verigene results**

| Factor  | Verigene positive (n=20) | Verigene negative (n=88) | <i>p</i>     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Primary disease (Cholecystitis / Cholangitis)                                   | 18 / 2                   | 82 / 6                   | 0.639        |
| Methods of the bile collection<br>(Cholecystectomy / Endoscopic / Percutaneous) | 16 / 3 / 1               | 71 / 8 / 9               | 0.652        |
| Sex (M / F)   | 11 / 9                   | 35 / 53                  | 0.224        |
| Age (years)   | 73 (53 - 89)             | 70 (30 - 93)             | 0.207        |
| ASA-PS  | 2 (1 - 4)                | 2 (1 - 4)                | 0.611        |
| Charlson comorbidity index  | 5 (2 - 10)               | 4 (0 - 11)               | 0.271        |
| Severity of TG18 (Grade I / II / III)   | 6 / 13 / 1               | 32 / 50 / 6              | 0.848        |
| Body Temperature (°C)   | 38.2 (36.4 - 39.7)       | 37.7 (36.7 - 39.7)       | 0.079        |
| White blood cell (/µl)  | 11,700 (5,600 - 23,400)  | 12,200 (4,900 - 32,700)  | 0.997        |
| C-reactive protein (mg/dL)  | 15.61 (0.05 - 26.37)     | 8.81 (0.04 - 39.48)      | 0.318        |
| T-Bil (mg/dL)   | 1.8 (0.7 - 4.6)          | 1.4 (0.5 - 8.4)          | 0.692        |
| Isolated bacterial species (Mono / Poly)  | 14 / 6                   | 19 / 17                  | 0.256        |
| Blood culture test (Present / Absent)   | 5 / 15                   | 14 / 74                  | 0.340        |
| <b>Blood culture positive (Positive / Negative)</b>                             | <b>4 / 1</b>             | <b>3 / 11</b>            | <b>0.038</b> |
| Duration antimicrobial treatment before bile collecti                           | 4 (0 - 144)              | 19 (0 - 512)             | 0.104        |
| Duration from onset to admission (h)  | 35 (0 - 144)             | 22 (0 - 432)             | 0.593        |
| <b>Duration from admission to bile collection (h)</b>                           | <b>7 (3 - 72)</b>        | <b>23 (1 - 528)</b>      | <b>0.027</b> |
| Duration from onset to bile collection (h)                                      | 54 (10 - 152)            | 53 (3 - 528)             | 0.462        |

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