

# Pathophysiology Case - Gastrointestinal Case #1

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## History

A 43-year-old woman presents to the emergency room with a history of worsening right upper quadrant pain. The pain started after she had pizza 2 days prior and is described as a sharp, stabbing sensation under the right ribs. She has also felt ill, developed slight nausea, and had a low-grade fever. There has been no vomiting or diarrhea. Physical examination reveals an obese woman with a low-grade fever and tenderness to palpation of the right upper quadrant. An abdominal ultrasound reveals a 2 cm gallstone lodged in the cystic duct with swelling of the gallbladder and a marked thickening of the gallbladder wall.

## Questions

1. What are the mechanisms involved in gallstone formation?

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2. What factors in the pathogenesis of gallstones may be responsible for the fact that it is more common in premenopausal women?

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3. What are the risk factors of gallbladder disease?

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4. What local complications can ensue from gallstone disease?

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