

Patient had gall stones - NOT his problem. He also had appendagitis. (see Image of Month for January 2009 [<http://uconnem.org/imageofmonthjan2009.htm>]) which was treated conservatively.

BUT, the gallbladder with the stones was also a “**Porcelain gallbladder.**”

A “porcelain gallbladder” is one with calcium in the wall. There are two main types:

“(1) a broad continuous band of calcification in the muscularis and (2) multiple punctate calcifications in the mucosa and glandular spaces of the mucosa.” (quoted from [emedicine.com](http://emedicine.com). See full citation below.)

The significance of a porcelain gallbladder, which is usually an incidental finding in a patient asymptomatic vis-à-vis the biliary system (as in our patient), is that it can be a pre-cancerous (carcinoma of GB) condition. Although there are the two types as mentioned above, with perhaps a difference in the malignant potential (see [emedicine](http://emedicine.com) for more details), it seems clear to me that this finding warrants a mandatory referral to either GI or surgery.

“Porcelain GB” (calcium in wall) is to be distinguished from “milk of calcium GB” (calcium in bile):

### Milk of Calcium GB

“Milk of calcium bile results from precipitation of particulate matter with high concentrations of calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, or calcium bilirubinate. It is associated with chronic cholecystitis and gallstone obstruction of the cystic duct.”

(Quoted from: <http://www.mypacs.net/cases/MILK-OF-CALCIUM-2854537.html>)

### **online links:**

porcelain gb:

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/372582-overview>

ct

<http://www.radpod.org/2007/04/01/porcelain-gallbladder/>

<http://www.e-radiography.net/radpath/p/porcellaingallbladder.htm>

<http://www.learningradiology.com/archives2008/COW%20318-Ca%20of%20GB/caseoftheweek318page.html>

ultrasound

<http://www.uhrad.com/ctarc/ct217.htm>

milk of calcium:

<http://www.mypacs.net/cases/MILK-OF-CALCIUM-2854537.html>



US of gallbladder of HH patient



<http://www.e-radiography.net/radpath/p/porcellaingallbladder.htm>



<http://www.mypacs.net/cases/MILK-OF-CALCIUM-2854537.html>

