

# **Introduction & Aim of The Essay**

## **Introduction**

Biliary tract carcinoma includes gallbladder, bile duct and ampullary carcinoma. Carcinoma; tumors that arise from the epithelium, forms more than 80% of biliary tract tumors <sup>[1]</sup>.

Risk factors for developing biliary tract carcinoma include race, cholelithiasis, abnormal junction of the pancreatic and biliary duct for gallbladder carcinoma, and primary sclerosing cholangitis and choledochal cyst for extrahepatic bile ducts carcinoma <sup>[2]</sup>.

Most of biliary tract carcinoma are adenocarcinoma and another term is used more specifically for adenocarcinoma of bile duct called cholangiocarcinoma because of its origin from cholangiocyte. Most biliary tract adenocarcinomas are highly invasive cancers that penetrate deeply into the walls of the bile duct or gallbladder. A smaller proportion of these adenocarcinomas tends to grow superficially into the lumen of the biliary tract as "papillary" tumors. These papillary tumors are less likely to invade deeply, and therefore tend to have a better prognosis. Other more rare carcinomas of the biliary tree include neuroendocrine carcinoma, and adenosquamous carcinoma <sup>[3]</sup>.

There are no definite methods for early diagnosis of biliary tract carcinoma nor specific markers are available in this disease. When this disease is suspected on the basis of clinical symptoms and risk factors, hemato-biochemical examination and abdominal ultrasonography are performed, then enhanced computed tomography (CT) and/or magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) is carried out <sup>[4]</sup>.

The only curative treatment in biliary tract cancer is surgical treatment. Therefore, the suitability of curative resection should be

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investigated in the first place. In the presence of metastasis to the liver, lung, peritoneum, or distant lymph nodes, curative resection is not suitable. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy may take place as a palliative treatment of the patient through relieving the pain or other symptoms by shrinking tumors that are blocking the ways for blood or bile or compressing on nerves <sup>[5]</sup>.