

## INTRODUCTION:

Gallstone disease constitutes a major health problem all over the world, despite a successful form of surgical therapy ( Eldon A., 1980 ).

The autopsy incidence of gallstones in people above the age of twenty years was found to be 30 % in men and 50 % in women ( Zahor et al, 1974 ).

Available evidence suggests that the incidence of gallstones has been rising sharply in recent decades ( Kalos et al, 1977 ) as is shown by the yearly rise in the number of operations performed in general hospitals ( Harding, 1963 ).

The past decade has witnessed considerable advances in our standing of the physicochemical changes in bile that lead to the formation of stones.

However, the reasons for the rising incidence of gallstones remain unknown ( Heaton, 1973 ), but many factors contribute to the formation of gallstones and might play a role in this process ( Ingelfinger, 1968 ).

The aim of this work is an attempt to discuss the subject especially the recent concepts in the pathogenesis of cholelithiasis.