and placed beneath the gallbladder, below Calot's triangle. It is important to ensure the edge of the gauze is flush with the liver at the level of the porta hepatis to minimise any gaps through which stones can be lost. As the cholecystectomy continues, the stones are caught by the gauze. This technique can also be employed if a subtotal cholecystectomy and removal of gallstones is necessary. At the end of the procedure, the gauze is folded in on itself and placed into a retrieval bag together with the gallbladder, ready for extraction.

DISCUSSION

This simple technique prevents the loss of gallstones into the abdomen. This reduces operating time while allowing all ports to be used as planned during the cholecystectomy.

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Simple inexpensive method for intraoperative video and audio documentation

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BACKGROUND

Digital imaging has provided surgeons with new and powerful tools for research, teaching, presentation and medicolegal purposes.^{1,2} Currently, video documentation requires expensive equipment, co-ordination with medical photography units and modification of the surgical technique in order to allow optimal access for the photographer.² Our aim was to find an inexpensive and practical method for documentation of surgical procedures.

TECHNIQUE

Patients are consented for video footage taken during surgery. The camera position and zoom are adjusted to the surgeon's anthropometric characters, and confirmed before commencing the procedure. We use a digital camera (GoPro®, Woodman Labs, San Mateo, CA, US) that can be adjusted with a head strap (Fig 1) and is currently used in numerous sport activities. These cameras have various capturing angles, excellent audio recording, rechargeable batteries that last for 2.5 hours of constant recording and memory cards that can save 8 hours of high definition video. The initial market price of these cameras is as low as £150. We have found the video and audio recordings to be clear and accurate as well as easily transferred and edited.

Figure 1 Digital camera adjusted to surgeon's forehead with a head strap

DISCUSSION

We have described a method of video and audio documentation of surgery that is easy to perform, inexpensive and useful for surgeons without specialist photographic or technological experience.

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