Liver, Bile duct – Cyst

**Figure Legend:**

- **Figure 1** Bile duct cysts in a female Harlan Sprague-Dawley rat from a chronic study.
- **Figure 2** Bile duct cysts in a female Harlan Sprague-Dawley rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1).
- **Figure 3** Bile duct cyst–multiloculated cyst in a female Harlan Sprague-Dawley rat from a chronic study.
- **Figure 4** Bile duct cysts in a female Harlan Sprague-Dawley rat from a chronic study.

**Comment:** Single and multiloculated biliary cysts can occur spontaneously in older rats and mice. They can occur as single dilated biliary structures, multiple adjacent dilated biliary structures (Figure 1 and Figure 2), or a multiloculated cyst (Figure 3). Biliary cysts may accompany hepatic toxicity and may be associated with peripheral or sub-basilar collagen deposition (Figure 4). They are typically lined by a single layer of flattened or low cuboidal epithelium (Figure 4), with little evidence of active proliferation. In contrast to cholangiomas, they do not compress the adjacent hepatic parenchyma.
**Recommendation:** Small biliary cysts may occasionally be seen in untreated rats but are more often associated with treatment. Consequently, they should be documented whenever present and given a severity grade.

**References:**


Abstract: [http://www.cacheriverpress.com/books/pathmouse.htm](http://www.cacheriverpress.com/books/pathmouse.htm)

National Toxicology Program. 2006. NTP TR-521. Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) (CAS No. 1746-01-6) in Female Harlan Sprague-Dawley Rats (Gavage Studies). NTP, Research Triangle Park, NC.  

Full-Text: [http://tpx.sagepub.com/content/38/7_suppl/5S.full](http://tpx.sagepub.com/content/38/7_suppl/5S.full)

**Author:**

Robert R. Maronpot, DVM, MS, MPH, DACVP, DABT, FIATP  
Senior Pathologist  
Experimental Pathology Laboratories, Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC