MINIMALLY INVASIVE TECHNIQUES IN GALLSTONES' MANAGEMENT

An Essay

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by

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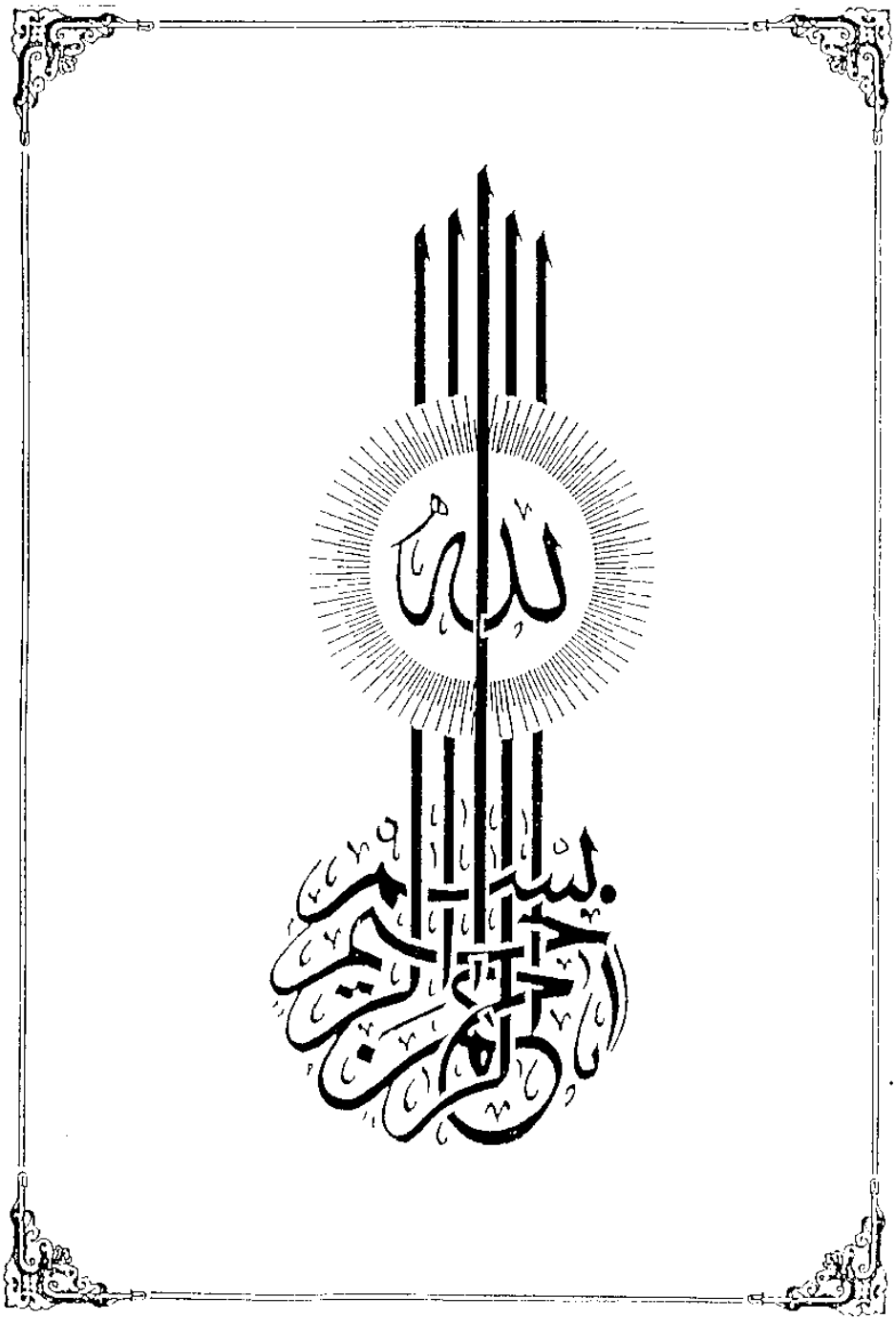

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INTRODUCTION

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Cholecystectomy has been performed for 100 years and is the standard treatment for gallbladder stones with proven safety and efficacy [mortality rate <1%]. Nevertheless even in the absence of complications and with short hospital stay, up to two-thirds of patients spend more than 6 weeks off work [Curtis and Russel, 1991].

There are patients who develop symptoms after cholecystectomy and 27-50% of these complain of wound pain 1-2 years after operation, in addition to lengthy convalescence and long term dissatisfaction following cholecystectomy, there is an increasing demand by the patients for non operative treatment of their gall stones, many patients ask about their own suitability for such therapy because of their fear of operation, the lengthy recovery period and their dislike of a large unsightly scar [Curtis and Russel, 1991].

AIM OF THE WORK

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The aim of this work is to discuss the current minimally invasive techniques in gallstone management and to assess the advantages and disadvantages of these new techniques.