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Nota di contenuto	Perspectives on Gallstones -- The Composition of Gallstones -- Transepithelial Water Transport in the Biliary System -- Mechanisms of Solute Secretion into Bile -- The Apoprotein of the Bile Lipoprotein Complex (APO-BLC) -- The Enterohepatic Circulations of Bile Acids in Man: A Maturation of Concepts -- A Biophysical Approach to Cholesterol Transport from Tissues to Bile -- Physical Chemistry of

Bile: Lipid Solubility -- Quasielastic Light Scattering Studies of Micelle Formation and Cholesterol Precipitation in Model Bile Solutions -- Biliary Cholesterol Supersaturation, Metastability and Micronucleation -- The Nucleation of Cholesterol Monohydrate Crystals in Model Bile Solutions -- The Role of Supersaturated Bile and Other Factors in the Genesis of Cholesterol Gallstones in Man -- Gallstone Formation in Animals -- The Role of the Gallbladder in Gallstone Formation -- Studies on the Pathogenesis of Cholesterol Gallstone Formation: Alterations of Bile Acid Transport and Liver Surface Membrane Lipid Structure by Estrogens -- Bile Acids: Stereospecific Side-Chain Hydroxylations in the Biosynthesis of Chenodeoxycholic Acid -- Effects of Diets and Drugs on Biliary Cholesterol Secretion in Man -- Recent Advances in the Synthesis, Metabolism, and Secretion of Biliary Phospholipids -- An Overview -- Ultrasonic Diagnosis of Cholelithiasis -- Cholescintigraphy -- Current Management of Uncomplicated Gallstones with Chenodeoxycholic Acid -- Ursodeoxycholic Acid for Gallstone Dissolution: The Emergence of a New Therapeutic Application of an Old Bile Acid -- Diet and Gallstones -- Endoscopic Treatment of Choledocholithiasis -- Pathogenesis and Management of Choledocholithiasis -- General Discussion -- Contributors.

Sommario/riassunto

Gallstone disease has afflicted man since antiquity, but only in the past decade has it been recognized as a major health problem and been the subject of widespread investigation. This investigation, initiated by the definition of the limits of cholesterol solubility in bile, has led to our current understanding of the pathogenesis of gallstone formation and has provided the basis for a rational approach to the *in situ* dissolution and prevention of cholesterol gallstones. This volume comprises the papers and discussion which formed the Fourth International Symposium of the Canadian Foundation for Diseases of the Liver. The Symposium, held in Montreal on May 12 and 13, 1978, was designed to bring together investigators from various disciplines and to review the current status of cholesterol gallstone disease. The Editors wish to thank these experts for their lucid and important contributions. We also wish to thank Valerie M. Price and Dianne McFee, of the Canadian Foundation for Diseases of the Liver, for their considerable and expert help in organizing the meeting, and preparing this volume for publication.
