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Reversal of Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding - Incidence, indications and long term outcomes.

Category: Outcomes from Bariatric Surgery

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Purpose

Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (LAGB) remains the safest bariatric operation and continues to produce good long term percentage excess weight loss (%EWL) results in our institution. It has been criticised for a high failure rate. This was investigated in terms of LABG reversal, its indications, %EWL and long term outcomes including any further revisional surgery.

Methods

Prospectively collected data from *Lapbase* was used. All reversals after primary LABG performed by a single surgeon were assessed. Single stage LABG revision (removal and re-insertion) was not included in this study as it is seen as maintenance of banding rather than reversal of the procedure.

Results

In the period 1997-2015 there were 3234 primary LABGs performed. 275(8.5%) were reversed. The mean time from primary band to reversal was 4.8 ± 3.1 years. The main indications were - intolerance(29.5%), pouch dilatation/prolapse(25.8%), erosion(21.5%), oesophageal dilatation(9.1%) and infection(7.6%). The mean %EWL of these patients at reversal was 43.0 ± 34.4 . The intolerance group had the worst %EWL of 23.0 ± 26.4 .

120 patients(43.6%) went onto revision surgery. The majority of which was laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy(LSG) 78, with a number of patients also having replacement of LABG, 32. Overall mean %EWL of these patients undergoing revision surgery was 51 ± 34.6 at a mean follow-up of 9.5 ± 3.3 years.

Of the intolerance group, 26 (32.1%) went on to further surgery, the majority LSG (88%). This led to a statistically significant(Mann-Whitney U test, $p < 0.05$) improvement in %EWL to 48.8%.

Conclusions

A small percentage of patients have minimal success with the band. In this large single surgeon series, 8.5% of patients had band reversal with almost half these going on to further surgery. These patients maintained good long term %EWL. Revision surgery can also improve %EWL in these patients. This was most evident in the intolerance group.