

# **PRELIMINARY EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNT IMPLEMENTING LAPAROSCOPIC SLEEVE GASTRECTOMY AS A SALVAGE PROCEDURE FOLLOWING LAPAROSCOPIC GASTRIC BANDING**

**Chris Hensman, Richard Gilhorne, Ray Mc Henry Lap Surgery Australia Melbourne**

## **Background**

Redo laparoscopic gastric band surgery is a successful strategy for gastric band related complications in selected cases (1.Vertruyen M ), however an alternative weight loss procedure may need to be implemented in some cases.

The role and safety of laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy as a salvage procedure following laparoscopic gastric banding is unproven.

## **Aim**

The aim of the study was to document the outcome following sleeve gastrectomy as a salvage procedure following previous gastric banding.

## **Method**

Outcomes were documented by retrospective chart review.

## **Results**

Over a 4 year period 40 consecutive patients underwent removal of lap gastric band followed by laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. The main indications were failure to lose or maintain weight loss despite the lack of a demonstrable band problem or band erosion.

Gastric fistula occurred in three patients and was successfully managed conservatively. Two patients developed gastric strictures one was managed by repeated dilatation and the other required an intestinal bypass. One unexpected complication of gastric resection occurred during the early experience requiring conversion to a roux-en-y gastric bypass. Two patients required re operation to resect excess gastric fundal remnants.

## **Conclusions**

Following sleeve gastrectomy as a salvage procedure for lap banding, Gastric fistulae can be managed expectantly. Gastric strictures can be managed by dilatation or intestinal bypass. Complete mobilisation of the gastric fundus is mandatory to avoid leaving a residual fundal remnant.

The paediatric gastroscope is a superior calibration tube for creation of the stomach tube.

1.Repositioning the Lap band for proximal pouch dilatation Vertruyen M Obes Surg 2003 Apr 13(2):258-8