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Multi-dimensional validated reporting of dysphagia post sleeve gastrectomy

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Background: Few studies have reported the prevalence of dysphagia, as its own clinical entity in the bariatric population; without being examined under the umbrella of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. This is compounded by studies not outlining methodologies used to assess dysphagia. Moreover, varying follow-up periods and different bariatric procedures have led to conflicting results.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of dysphagia using a statistically robust patient-reported tool, Dysphagia Handicap Index (DHI) post Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy (LSG). DHI is a validated tool which additionally measures the handicapping effects of dysphagia on emotional and functional domains of living.

Methods: DHI questionnaire was administered to 124 patients who underwent LSG at least 1 year prior. Post-operative weight, change in BMI, percentage weight loss, and quality of life were assessed. Results: Mean weight loss was 27.9% (range 15-49%). Mean BMI was 37.1 (range 30-50.9) pre-operatively and 30.2 (range 24.9-37.1) post-operatively. Mean DHI score was 10.5 (range 0-28.9) pre-operatively and 8.1 (range 3-27.9) post-operatively. Mean quality of life score was 4.9 (range 3-10) pre-operatively and 4.9 (range 3-10) post-operatively. Mean patient satisfaction score was 10.5 (range 0-28.9) pre-operatively and 8.1 (range 3-27.9) post-operatively.

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