

Routine Preoperative Barium Swallow to detect Hiatus Hernia in Bariatric Surgery Patients: Is it Worthwhile?

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Routine Preoperative Barium Swallow to detect Hiatus Hernia in Bariatric Surgery Patients: Is it Worthwhile? Purpose To determine if routine preoperative barium swallow before laparoscopic bariatric surgery can predict those patients who require crural repair for hiatus hernia. Method 100 consecutive patients undergoing bariatric surgery underwent preoperative barium swallow to detect hiatus hernia. The radiological results were compared to the operative findings. Results 98 patients underwent a complete radiological study. 17 patients were reported to have a hiatus hernia radiologically. 37 patients were found to have a hiatus hernia at operation, and had a sutured anterior crural repair as per our unit protocol.

Operative Finding

Hiatus hernia No Hiatus Hernia Radiological Hiatus Hernia -
7 10 Finding No Hiatus Hernia -

30 51 The true positive rate was 7%. The calculated sensitivity

for barium swallow in detecting a hiatus hernia prior to surgery was 21%. A positive barium swallow had a 41% probability of detecting a hiatus hernia subsequently confirmed at surgery.

Conclusion Preoperative barium swallow in morbidly obese patients undergoing laparoscopic bariatric surgery was poor at predicting the presence of hiatus hernia. Routine barium swallow prior to bariatric surgery for the detection of hiatus hernia was unreliable and not warranted.

Results		
	Hiatus Hernia at Operation	No Hiatus Hernia
Positive Barium Study	7	10
Negative Barium Study	30	51
	True Positive	True Negative