

Rise of Sleeve gastrectomy in Asia

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Abstract

Bariatric surgery is an ever evolving field. There have been several discoveries that have changed the way bariatric procedures are carried out. This has led to a lot of enthusiasm within the surgical community. Many of the bariatric surgical procedures have not been able to stand the test of time and have been replaced with newer, simpler and more effective procedures rendering the older ones obsolete.

Sleeve gastrectomy is a relatively new procedure. What was initially started as the first stage of a duodenal switch surgery in super super obese patients has now come of age to have its place as a standalone procedure in bariatric surgery. There is a lot of excitement in the surgical community about this procedure. Its popularity can be attributed to its favourable early results. Hence surgeons from across the world are now offering it to an increasing number of patients. The benefits of sleeve gastrectomy seem to far outweigh its risks. It is a technically easier procedure with a lower learning curve. There are less chances of developing nutritional deficiencies and the remnant stomach is always accessible for examination which is of great significance for stomach cancer endemic countries like Japan and Korea. Asian studies have already suggested better results in terms of weight loss and resolution of co-morbidities after a sleeve gastrectomy. Increasing proficiency of Asian surgeons in Single Incision surgery has led to further increase in the popularity of this procedure in Asia.

The only word for caution for complete adoption of LSG is that long term results are still awaited and leaks from staple lines are difficult to treat.