Reviewer's report

Title: Banded Gastric Bypass - four years follow up in a prospective multicentre analysis

Version: 2 Date: 12 February 2014

Reviewer: Felix B Langer

Reviewer's report:

First of all, I would like to congratulate the authors to their submitted manuscript and the very good results for weight loss after banded gastric bypass, combined with a low complication rate.

As primary weight loss failure and substantial weight regain after gastric bypass seems to be a major drawback in gastric bypass surgery, the additional placement of a band around the gastric pouch can improve weight loss success in the longer follow-up after the operation. Only a limited number of papers have been published so far, focusing on this topic. The authors present a prospective multicenter study including 183 patients from 3 centers providing weight loss data up to four years after surgery for at least 13 patients. The study is no randomized trial comparing banded to non-banded bypass, but the presented weight loss for banded bypass of up to 85% EWL is excellent.

I recommend to accept the manuscript with minor essential revisions:

Abstract: Dysphagia or regurgitations were observed in only one patient (with a broken ring) – please add this information also to the Abstract, as this dysphagia rate is very low for banded gastric bypass.

Material & Methods: The low dysphagia rate might be a result of the ring design. Please add information of the height of the ring to the M&M.

Results: No ring migration was observed any patient. Did you perform scheduled gastroscopy in the patients to rule out “silent” migrations? A migration rate of zero is very low. Please add this information to the Results section and also add the median follow-up time for this observation, as ring migrations might be a problem in the longer follow-up.

Table 2: please add information about the number of patients with a follow-up at 3,6 months and 1,2,3,4 years in the Table 2,3,4 and add this information also to the Results section and the Abstract.

Conclusion: Only 13 patients completed a follow-up of four years so far, please add this information to the Conclusion as a limitation of the study.

Furthermore some discretionary revisions should be made:
Material&Methods – Line 4:
… excess weight (calculated as actual weight minus ideal weight ... (based on a BMI of 25).

Material&Methods – Line 12:
Rings with a circumference of 6.5 cm were used ...( in all the patients.)
(How did you choose the band size for the individual patient?)

Discussion: Could You please provide dysphagia rates for the cited studies of Valenzi, Bessler, White, Herrera and Fobi.

Table1
Min. BMI was 32kg/m2 – this seems to be no primary bypass. Please add the number of revisional bypasses (e.g. conversions from band to bypass) in the Material&Methods section

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests