**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Irritable bowel syndrome-like symptoms and health related quality of life two years after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass - a prospective cohort study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 30 May 2019

**Reviewer:** Cesare Cremon

**Reviewer's report:**

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This is an interesting prospective cohort study assessing the prevalence of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) 2 years after intervention of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) for morbid obesity. The Authors showed that the prevalence of new IBS was 22% (45/206 patients) after RYGB with significant worsening of the mental component score of quality of life. In addition, preoperative IBS and fibromyalgia were associated with postoperative IBS.

The study appears to be well designed and conducted, and the results are clearly reported. The discussion is consistent with the results. However, there are flaws that reduce the quality of the manuscript:

RYGB may be considered as a predisposing factor for small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO), condition characterized by symptoms overlapping with IBS. Did the authors exclude SIBO in their patients after RYGB by glucose breath testing or culture of jejunum aspirate for bacterial counts? Probably, a high proportion of subjects suffer of this condition rather than IBS. If the authors did not evaluate this aspect, I suggest to include this in discussion as a major limitation of the study.

I suggest to prefer the term IBS-like symptoms rather than IBS. By definition, IBS is a functional bowel disorder in which macroscopic organic causes are excluded. RYGB may perturb pain perception and alter gastrointestinal physiology, pathophysiological mechanisms involved in symptom generation in IBS.
It is well defined that factors triggering the onset or exacerbation of IBS symptoms include for example surgery. The study is lacking of a control group represented for example by subjects who underwent laparoscopic cholecystectomy. It is possible that laparoscopic abdominal surgery, rather than RYGB, is involved in new onset of IBS-like symptoms. I suggest to include a control group to assess the real prevalence of new IBS-like symptoms after RYGB.

Typos

Page 13, Line 39-44: These findings supports an association…. and highlights

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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