Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of barbed sutures in robotic bariatric bypass surgery: a single-center case series

Authors:

Jan Beckmann (jan.beckmann@uksh.de)
Jan Kersebaum (jan-niclas.kersebaum@uksh.de)
Witigo von Schönfels (witigo.vonschoenfels@uksh.de)
Thomas Becker (thomas.becker@uksh.de)
Clemens Schafmayer (clemens.schafmayer@uksh.de)
Jan Egberts (jan-hendrik.egberts@uksh.de)

Version: 1 Date: 23 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Reviewers,

First we would like to thank you for your thoughtful and comprehensive reviews and for the opportunity to revise our manuscript (BSUR-D-19-00110). All changes to the manuscript are highlighted. Below you will find a point-to-point answer to the recommendations of reviewer 1 and 2.

Zhamak Khorgami (Reviewer 1)

A report of 50 Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) using robot and barbed suture.

Introduction:

- Please make the goals of study more clear in the introduction.

We have added our aim at the end of the Background section, rather than the start of the Methods.
Method:

- The goal of "simplify, shorten and thus make surgical steps more secure" is a comparative objective that may not be assessed by a study with no control group.

Thank you, we have deleted this text from our aims, now at the end of the Background section.

- Timing of different parts of surgery can be mentioned as the secondary outcome variables.

Our secondary outcomes have been listed in the Methods.

- Please clarify the length of BP and Roux limb

This information has been added to the surgical procedure in the Methods, line 112 and 123.

- Line 117 - Gastrojejunostomy or Jejunojejunostomy?

Jejunojejunostomy, thank you – the text has been changed.

- A "statistical analysis" can be added to the end of methods. you can add percentages to categorical values like EOSS

We have added this information to the end of the first paragraph of the Methods. We changed Table 1 and Additional File 1.

Results:

- One readmission for bleeding from anastomosis can be emphasized in the abstract

We have added this information to the Abstract.

General:

- Use an acronym for Roux-en-Y gastric bypass throughout the manuscript

We have changed throughout, where appropriate.
We have checked and changed the text in lines 113-114 and 122-125, as appropriate.

David Edholm (Reviewer 2)

The authors have studied the outcomes of using barbed sutures in robotic RYGB in 50 patients and they have shown that barbed sutures can be safely used in robotic RYGB.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this interesting and well worded paper on a hot topic.

Thank you for your kind comments.

You have been performing LRYGB w vicryl previously? Could these vicryl patients be used as a control group? As you have stated the lack of a control group is a weakness in your study.

Unfortunately, we do not have an appropriate control group, so that a direct comparison is not possible at this time. Further studies on the safety of barbed sutures in robotic bariatric procedures are planned.

Instead, we have added some information to the discussion (lines 189-192), comparing our work with previous studies that used vicryl, to provide some context. However, as we say, our techniques are not comparable.

Excellent tips for centers starting out w barbed suture LRYGB which I am sure will be greatly appreciated! The paper brings up some new data although the degree of novelty and lack of control group are issues.

We appreciate your positive feedback.

Thank you very much for your help. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. Best regards

Jan Beckmann