Author's response to reviews

Title: The Sleeve Bypass Trial: a multicentre randomized controlled trial comparing the long term outcome of laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass for morbid obesity in terms of excess weight loss percentage and quality of life.

Authors:

L. Ulas Biter (u.biter@sfg.nl)
Ralph PM Gadiot (r.gadiot@sfg.nl)
Brechtje A Grotenhuis (b.grotenhuis@erasmusmc.nl)
Martin Dunkelgrun (m.dunkelgrun@sfg.nl)
Stefanie R van Mil (s.vanmil@sfg.nl)
Hans JJ Zengerink (h.zengerink@sfg.nl)
J. Frans Smulders (frans.smulders@catharinaziekenhuis.nl)
Guido HH Mannaerts (g.mannaerts@sfg.nl)

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Dear editors,

We would like to submit our manuscript entitled “The Sleeve Bypass Trial: a multicentre randomized controlled trial comparing the long term outcome of laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass for morbid obesity in terms of excess weight loss percentage and quality of life.” for publication in your journal.

Bariatric surgery is considered the best treatment to realize long-term sufficient weight loss in morbidly obese patients. Besides weight loss, it also has profound effects on obesity-related co-morbidities. Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (LRYGB) is considered the best surgical option for morbid obesity. The laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) is a relatively new procedure that is becoming more and more popular. LSG has the advantage that the normal gastrointestinal tract remains intact. Furthermore, QOL appears to be better in recent studies after LSG compared with LRYGB.

So far results of RCTs with small number of patients and short-term outcome have been published only. In these studies the percentage excess weight loss is similar for both techniques. Although their conclusions lack hard evidence to determine in which patients these two different techniques should be performed, these studies seem to show a small short term beneficial result for LSG. However, concerns remain that the sleeve will lose its effect in time, resulting in a decline of weight loss and reappearance of obesity-related comorbidity. This study will contribute to the evidence on which surgical technique is to be preferred for certain subgroups in the future.

We feel that this article is in line with the scope of your journal and would be of great interest to a large part of your readership involved in obesity treatment and bariatric surgery.

We would like to state that this manuscript has not been published in or submitted to any other journal and there are no conflicts of interest.

The WMO approved Medical Ethics Committee in our region (TWOR) has approved the research proposal. The trial is accepted and registered in the Dutch trial register (CCMO) with the Trial Registration Number NL37501.101.11.. All authors made their contribution in completing this article, all references have been checked. The study has not received external funding. We have adapted the article according to your submission guidelines and have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

We would like to thank you for considering our paper for publication and hope it will match up to standards necessary to warrant publication in *BMC obesity*.

Yours sincerely,

L.U. Biter, MD.
Sint Franciscus Gasthuis Rotterdam
Department of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery,
Kleiweg 500, 3045 PM, Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone number:  +31-6-24285849
Email: u.biter@sfg.nl