Reviewer’s report

Title: Quality of life, food tolerance, and eating disorder behavior after laparoscopic gastric banding and sleeve gastrectomy. Results from a Middle Eastern center of excellence.

Version: 1 Date: 16 Nov 2017

Reviewer: LM Funk

Reviewer's report:

The authors report that among 84 patients who underwent either a sleeve or band in Bahrain, QOL was similar between the two but sleeves did better in terms of food tolerance and eating disorders. The main strength of this study is that there is limited published data in these areas with respect to patients from the Arabian Gulf Region as the authors note. This work helps inform subsequent clinical care and adds to an important body of literature regarding bariatric surgery outcomes from throughout the world. The manuscript is well-written. Suggestions for improvement:

1. Study limitations - I think this section needs to be developed a bit more. Specifically, there is no preoperative band data so it's not really possible to QoL changes between sleeve and band (e.g. one can't really say whether bands or sleeves improved their QoL more). I think this should be explicitly acknowledged in the limitations section. Are there other study limitations? Are the study findings generalizable to other populations? The proportion of female patients, for example, seems lower than most studies (where it's around 80%).

2. Describing a gastric sleeve resection as a "simple" operation seems inaccurate. Compared to a bypass, most would agree that it is technically more straightforward. But it is still major abdominal surgery and an operation that is technically challenging with areas of uncertainty (how small to make the sleeve, staple line reinforcement, distal from pylorus, etc)

3. What was the median duration of follow-up? What was the follow-up rate for filling out the questionnaires? It currently appears as though the follow-up rate was 100%.

4. Results, demographics - Can the authors include the actual preop BMIs and BMI reductions rather than just the p value? Same with %EWL.

Thank you.

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?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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