



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Safely converting an adjustable gastric band to sleeve gastrectomy

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A bariatric surgeon has told delegates to the 80th Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons that there is a proven technique for the conversion of a laparoscopic gastric band to sleeve gastrectomy.

Dr Michael Talbot, a Sydney based General Surgeon, conducted a retrospective audit of 25 conversion procedures and created a database of patient demographics, complications and weight loss outcomes as part of a larger project looking at outcomes in a group of 200 patients having re-operative weight loss surgery. Video footage of the procedure was reviewed and analysed to determine the key elements of the technique.

“The key element of the technique is a two stage procedure,” Dr Talbot said. “The first stage involves the removal of the band and the taking down of the tunnel. Maximum gastric adhesiolysis is undertaken and the plane between the liver and stomach is preserved with an anti-adhesion barrier.”

“The second stage involves further adhesiolysis as necessary, and a looser than usual sleeve is performed over a 36Fr boogie. The proximal staple line is over sewn at least as distally as the scar tissue from the gastric band.”

Dr Talbot reported that of the 25 conversion procedures undertaken, none had resulted in leaks.

“While a laparoscopic gastric band can be converted to a sleeve gastrectomy the risks are certainly greater than that of primary surgery. I wished to show what factors are important in patient selection and operative technique that allows the surgery to be done effectively but without compromising safety,” Dr Talbot concluded.

Dr Talbot’s presentation is one of hundreds at this year’s ASC, covering all surgical specialties and aspects of surgical history and education. Nearly 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the ASC, which runs from 2 to 6 May and is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The ASC program is available online at www.surgeons.org

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