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Indication of Gastric Band Removal and Conversion Rate

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Background: Laparoscopic gastric banding procedure (LAGB) is decreasing worldwide in favour of other bariatric procedures . Common reasons for the removal of the gastric band are the dissatisfaction of the patients or the late complications. We observed what happened to 1800 gastric band patients after long time follow up (FU).

Methods: Between 2001-2015. We have performed 1800 LAGB-operations. 1460 patients (77%) were available for follow up. We collected our data prospectively. Recorded data preoperatively included age, sex, comorbidity, body mass index (BMI), Postoperatively recorded data included, intra and post operative morbidity and mortality, percentage of excess weight loss (%EWL), at 3, 6 and 12-months and then annually up to 15 years postoperatively and the removal or conversion rate of the gastric bands.

Results: 1460 patients had follow up between 1- 15 years or more (81%), of these 570 patients (39%) of them had their band removed or converted to other bariatric procedure. Reason for removal was discomfort and not sufficient weight loss in 302 (53%) cases, band slippage in 180 (31.5%) cases, band intolerance 32 (5.6%) cases, band erosion in 26 (1.75%) cases, private reasons in 30 (5.2%) cases. These Incidence has increased with longer follow up.

Mean BMI decreased mostly with more satisfaction in the first 5 years postop. Only 48% of the patient achieved excess weight loss $\geq 50\%$ with FU 10 years or more.

Conclusions: Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding seems to be an effective treatment for morbid obesity in the early years postoperatively with increasing removal rate and dissatisfaction after that.