

Study finds change in type of procedure most commonly used for bariatric surgery

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In an analysis of the type of bariatric surgery procedures used in Michigan in recent years, sleeve gastrectomy (SG) surpassed Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) in 2012 as the most common procedure performed for patients seeking this type of surgery, and SG became the predominant bariatric surgery procedure for patients with type 2 diabetes, according to a study in the September 3 issue of *JAMA*.

Bariatric [surgery](#) is the most effective therapy available for significant and sustainable weight loss in patients with morbid obesity, and its use has increased during the last decade. Changes in procedure use over time reflect emerging evidence regarding the comparative safety and effectiveness of available procedures. An understanding of current trends in bariatric procedure use can inform primary care physicians counseling patients with morbid obesity who are considering surgical intervention, according to background information in the article.

Bradley N. Reames, M.D., M.S., of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and colleagues analyzed data on 43,732 adults who underwent primary inpatient and outpatient [bariatric surgery](#) within the 39-hospital Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative between June 2006 and December 2013.

The researchers found that relative use of SG increased from 6.0 percent of all procedures in 2008 to 67.3 percent of all procedures in 2013, an increase of 61 percent. During the same period, use of RYGB decreased from 58.0 percent to 27.4 percent, and use of laparoscopic adjustable

gastric banding decreased from 34.5 percent to 4.6 percent.

Even though SG was the most common procedure across all subgroups in 2012 and 2013, SG rates were relatively lower in patients 65 years or older, in patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease, and in patients with type 2 diabetes.

"Although long-term outcomes of SG are still unclear, these changes may reflect the favorable perioperative safety profile and emerging evidence of successful [weight loss](#) at 2 to 3 years after SG. These findings are important to inform [primary care physicians](#) of the predominant bariatric procedure currently used, regardless of pre-existing comorbidity, and may assist in the preoperative counseling of [patients](#) considering surgical therapy for [morbid obesity](#)," the authors write.

More information: [DOI: 10.1001/jama.2014.7651](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2014.7651)

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