

Endoscopic sleeve gastropasty: A promising new weight loss procedure

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In the fight against obesity, bariatric surgery is currently the most effective treatment; however, only 1 to 2 percent of qualified patients receive this surgery due to limited access, patient choice, associated risks and the high costs. A novel treatment method—endoscopic sleeve gastropasty—might offer a new solution for obese patients. Endoscopic sleeve gastropasty is a minimally invasive, safe and cost-effective weight loss intervention, according to a study¹ published online in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association.

"Given the low use of bariatric surgery and limited effectiveness of lifestyle changes and drug treatments, a significant gap exists in our current approach to obesity," said lead study author Barham K. Abu Dayyeh, MD, MPH, from the department of gastroenterology and hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. "Endoscopic sleeve gastropasty offers an effective weight loss intervention at lower cost and higher patient satisfaction, potentially filling this gap in the management of obesity."

Endoscopic sleeve gastropasty falls under the umbrella of endoscopy, a nonsurgical procedure gastroenterologists use to examine a person's digestive tract. Using an endoscope, a flexible tube with a light and camera attached to it, endoscopic sleeve gastropasty reduces the size of the stomach by creating a sleeve using a set of sutures (Figure).

In this study of 25 patients with obesity who underwent the procedure at

the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty reduced excess body weight by 54 percent at one year. Further, the procedure delayed solid food emptying from the stomach and created an earlier feeling of fullness during a meal, which resulted in a more significant and long-lasting weight loss.

Endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty was well tolerated as an outpatient treatment, requiring less than two hours of procedure time. Patients resumed their normal lifestyle within one to three days. The treatment was performed using standard "off-the-shelf" endoscopic tools as opposed to specific [weight loss](#) devices or platforms. The cost of endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty is roughly one-third that of [bariatric surgery](#).

This *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* research provides evidence of the effectiveness of endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty in treating [obese patients](#). Randomized controlled studies with longer follow-up are needed to confirm the findings of this study in a larger patient population.

More than one-third of U.S. adults are obese. Obesity can lead to deadly conditions, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer. The extraordinary rates of this disease and development of related conditions results in an enormous economic burden on the American health-care system.

More information: Abu Dayyeh BK, Acosta Cardenas AJ, Camilleri M, Mundi MS, Rajan E, Topazian MD, Gostout CJ, Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty Alters Gastric Physiology and Induces Loss of Body Weight in Obese Individuals, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (2016), [DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2015.12.030\(15\)01714-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cgh.2015.12.030(15)01714-0)

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