

Correspondence

New Device for Introduction of Circular Stapler

To the Editor:

I read the article by Müller et al, "New device for the introduction of a circular stapler in laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery," with great interest.¹ I have long employed the trans-abdominal circular stapled approach during laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass and enjoyed its benefits, namely its ease of use and consistent stoma size. Our group has demonstrated that the trans-abdominal circular stapled technique compares favorably with the hand-sewn technique on the basis of weight loss, hernias, wound infections, and ulcer/stricture rates.² However, a drawback to the technique is the increased pain in the postoperative period, caused by dilation of the trocar site to facilitate passage of the EEA stapler. This trocar-site pain may also be misinterpreted as pain from other causes such as an anastomotic leak.

Like Müller et al,¹ we developed a similar device to lessen the tissue damage caused by the passage of the EEA stapler (US Patent, USPTO # 60/775391, A System to Facilitate the Use of a Surgical Instrument). My wound infection rate was already quite low at <1% before use of the device, by using an Endo-Catch® to shield the stapler as it exits the

abdominal wall. The most benefit from the stapler introductory device is decreased trocar-site pain which removes the one drawback to the trans-abdominal circular stapler technique. This device will accelerate the utilization of the trans-abdominal circular stapler technique. We congratulate Müller et al¹ on their recognition of the value of this proven device.

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References

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