

Reply to Letter to the Editor in Response to “Elipse Balloon: the Pitfalls of Excessive Simplicity”

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We thank the authors for their interesting comment on our letter “Elipse Balloon: the Pitfalls of Excessive Simplicity” [1]. The authors declare over 5100 Elipse balloons placed worldwide from the end of 2015 until May 2018 and among them, there were 14 cases (0.27%) of small bowel obstruction (SBO). Data sources are not clearly specified although in the bottom of Figure 1 is written “Allurion estimates through May 17, 2018” then we hypothesized a manufacturer’s estimation. We recently collected data from the IFSO worldwide survey 2016, and we analyzed the number and the type of surgical and endoluminal procedures from 52 IFSO National Societies. We reported 25,359 endoluminal procedures (EP) in the world representing about 4% of the total bariatric interventions. The most part of EP were intragastric balloons (IGB), especially Orbera BIB, representing about 97% of all IGB. Among EP, we collected 633 Elipse reported by 4 IFSO National Societies (Chile, France, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia). However, since some IFSO nations do not specify the type of endoluminal procedures performed, we cannot rule out the possibility that the number of Elipse placed in 2016 is underestimated. To the best of our knowledge, some authors reported a small series of patients without any significant complication [2–5]. However, a recent multicenter, prospective study [6] enrolling a larger population of 135 patients described 1 SBO (0.74%) that required a laparoscopic enterotomy. The discrepancy among the 5100 Elipse balloons placed stated by the authors and what is reported from literature and from IFSO society raise a doubt: is it possible an underestimation in the number of SBO referred to the Allurion engineering team?

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Our strong belief is that the scientific community has to share bad and good results, because this could improve our knowledge. Therefore, we take this opportunity to stimulate not only the IFSO National Societies but as well as all bariatric teams to improve their local data collection system to provide more accurate outcomes of all performed procedures.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Statement of Informed Consent Not applicable

Statement of Human and Animal Rights Not applicable

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