



The Effect of Drains and Compressive Garments Versus Progressive Tensioning Sutures on Seroma Formation in Abdominoplasty



Tim Brown¹ · Kayla Murphy¹ · Tracey Murphy¹

Received: 14 December 2023 / Accepted: 12 January 2024

© Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature and International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery 2024

Level of Evidence IV This journal requires that authors assign a level of evidence to each article. For a full description of these Evidence-Based Medicine ratings, please refer to the Table of Contents or the online Instructions to Authors www.springer.com/00266.

We thank the authors for their comments and would agree with the contents of their letter. Post-bariatric patients represent a relatively new challenge for plastic surgeons and do indeed present their own unique surgical and metabolic challenge (1).

At the commencement of our study (2), very few (< 1%) abdominoplasties were undertaken because of massive weight loss secondary to bariatric procedures, but in our current practice, they represent the overwhelming majority.

All our post-bariatric patients have resections undertaken using an argon plasma diathermy which cuts tissue by desiccation (3) rather than burning. The penetration depth of the coagulation is limited to a few millimetres, limiting tissue destruction which we believe that this may reduce our incidence of seroma.

As suggested by the authors, we have indeed commenced a second study to examine the use of progressive tension sutures in post-bariatric patients. The study stratifies for weight resected as a proportion of pre-bariatric weight, weight lost and weight at the time of procedure. We also are collating relevant biochemical data such as

serum albumen pre- and post-surgery. We hope to submit the results of the study to this Journal in 2024.

Once again, we thank the authors for their comments.

Declarations

Conflicts of interest The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to disclose

Human or animal rights This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed consent For this type of study, informed consent is not required.

References

1. Romano L, Zoccali G, Orsini G, Giuliani M (2019) Reducing complications in post-bariatric plastic surgery: our experience and literature review. *Acta Biomed* 90(4):475–481. <https://doi.org/10.23750/abm.v90i4.7405>
2. Brown T, Murphy K, Murphy T (2023) The effect of drains and compressive garments versus progressive tensioning sutures on seroma formation in abdominoplasty. *Aesthetic Plast Surg* 47(5):1905–1910. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00266-022-03244-4>
3. Zenker M (2008) Argon plasma coagulation. *GMS Krankenhhy Interdiszip* 3(1):Doc15

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

✉ Tim Brown
tim@timbrown.com.au

¹ Berwick, Australia