Comment on “Effects of Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Comparison of BMI > 30 and < 30 kg/m²”

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I have read a thought-provoking prospective study entitled “Effects of Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Comparison of BMI > 30 and < 30 kg/m²” [1]. I have several comments on this study.

Recently, many studies have reported the usefulness of bypass surgery in non-obese diabetic patients [2].

I totally disagree with the idea of bariatric surgery for overweight individuals (BMI of between 25 and 29) with or without diabetes. There is still doubt about the death rate of this group of individuals. Flegal et al. reported a slightly lower rate of mortality according to even a normal weight group [3]. Quality of life is important but our main goal for therapy is to decrease mortality. Some patients in the study are in the early period of diabetes and they are so young. It is not logical to refer them for bariatric surgery, which is irreversible and also some of these patients seem to have maturity onset of diabetes of youth (MODY) which may be evaluated differently. Sulfonylurea therapy may be helpful for them and there is also a chance for new therapies in the near future because they are single-gene disorders.

Especially for this group of patients, HbA1c decrease may not reflect a decrease in mortality rates as in the ACCORD study [4]. Also, I think a 5-year period is not enough for long-term mortality for irreversible procedures.

Some surgery clinics are competent and that is why surgery risks may be low in their clinics. There is the risk of wrong message to many obesity surgeons in the world that they can perform surgery for patients with diabetes and without obesity. From my point of view, the therapy of diabetes is not mainly a surgery.

I also think cost-effectiveness analysis is not suitable for a non-obese overweight group for these reasons.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest Statement The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval Statement This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author.

Informed Consent Statement Informed consent statement does not apply.

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