

Dear Editor:

Re: Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases
Manuscript NO.: 29978
Column: Retrospective Study
Title: Efficacy of Intragastric Balloon on Weight Reduction: Saudi Perspective
Authors: Ebtissam Saleh Saleh Almeghaiseeb, Muhammad Farooq Ashraf, Reem Abdullah Alamro, Abdulaziz Omar Almasoud and Abdulrahman Ali Alrobayan

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled “**Efficacy of Intragastric Balloon on Weight Reduction: Saudi Perspective**” to the World Journal of Clinical Cases

Obesity is a major pan-endemic health problem in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affecting about 30% of the population. Literature shows that dietary regimens and weight-loss programs following pharmacotherapy remain largely ineffective. Bariatric surgery is the most effective long term option, however the majority are either reluctant to undergo surgery or do not qualify for medical reasons. Intragastric balloons are of proven benefit as an alternative or a bridge to surgery, however the evidence for its utility particularly the newer version such as the intragastric balloon (IGB) MEDSIL® in Saudi Arabia is lacking. Hence, this study is an attempt to evaluate its long-term treatment success rate in obese patients referred to a tertiary health clinic in Saudi Arabia.

Our study, though benefited from the strength of the large sample size, had a few limitations. It is retrospective and the relatively limited follow-up period post balloon retrieval. A follow-up period of more than six months including tracking of co-morbidities along with body conversion parameters would have been more insightful.

The findings of our study were interesting and provide useful insights that we hope is a valuable addition to medical literature. We believe that our results are of interest to your readers and we hope it will be considered for publications in your esteemed journal.

Below is a point to point response to the comments provided.

Comments:

1. Scientific Research Process – Provided in PDF and signed by Corresponding Author.
2. Author contributions provided.
3. Institutional review board statement provided.

4. Informed consent statement – due to the retrospective nature of the study, written consent was not obtained. IRB approval was obtained.
5. Conflict of interest statement – none declared
6. Data sharing statement provided.
7. Biostatistics statement provide in pdf.
8. Core Tip provided. Incorporated in the text and audio file, mp3 format.
9. Reference format was revised accordingly.
10. Comments section provided.
11. PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation provided to the reference list and listed all authors.

REPLY TO REVIEWER'S COMMENTS:

Comment: Overnight fasting blood specimen..... for the estimation of BLOOD concentracion(glucose). Explain better the follow-up of these patients: are clinic appointments scheduled?, are they on hipocaloric diets?

ADDRESSED. HIGHLIGHTED THIS IN GREEN

Comment: Discussion You should describe the similarities or differences with other IGB.

INSERTED A TABLE 7 GIVING THIS COMPARISON

Comment: As you describe it it looks like BIB. You state that the more time IGB spent in the stomach the mote BMI reduction,. But you do not mention if complications are higher or not.

THIS IS HIGHLIGHTED IN RESULTS NOW.

Comment: Some authors had reported that weight loss is higher in the first three months. You should discuss your results with theirs as you reported a higher BMI loss with longer intragastric time.

THIS COMPARISON IS PRESENTED IN TABLE 6. THIS WAS ALSO INCORPORATED IN THE TEXT.

Sincerely yours,

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