

Haifa, Israel 23/02/2019

Re: Dual Loop (Roux en Y) reconstruction with isolated gastric limb reduces delayed gastric emptying after Pancreatico-duodenectomy

Dear Sir,

Thank you for considering our study for publication in your distinguished journal.

This study show for the first time that Roux en Y reconstruction with an isolated gastric limb reduces significantly the rates of delayed gastric emptying. This study is not free from biases and is limited by its retrospective nature. I would like to answer for some of the reviewer's comments:

1. Rates of DGE – as we discussed in the second paragraph of the discussion, indeed the rates of DGE in the control group are rather high. We believe that it is due to the NG removal policy that was applied at that time and strict adherence to the ISPGS guidelines that were published later on. We believe that this issue is completely eliminated when performing a subgroup analysis of the higher grades of DGE that almost disappear in the study group and still presents in the control.
With no doubt a prospective randomized controlled study will resolve this issue.
2. The ISPGS guidelines are presented in the references we find it a little bit redundant to discuss the guidelines in the text.
3. Braun anastomosis – to my knowledge and experience this type of anastomosis does not reduce the rates of DGE and therefor was not discussed. Two large metanalysis showed no difference in rates of DGE and another recent one contradicted their results. The Braun anastomosis was not the main outcome of this study and therefor was not discussed. If the editor retains this necessary, we will add a paragraph discussing the use of a Braun anastomosis.

Thank you very,

Offir Ben-Ishay MD