

Conversion from Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass to SADI-S, with a Gastro-Gastric Jejunal Bridge as a Treatment of Obesity Recidivism: Case Report

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Abstract: *There is a considerable weight regain after the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) surgery. Surgical conversion to more powerful metabolic techniques, like one anastomosis duodenal switch with sleeve gastrectomy (SADI-S), can be effective in this scenario, but surgically challenging. This case report aims to demonstrate technical modifications that simplifies the conversion of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass to SADI-S, in one stage. Female patient submitted to laparoscopic RYGB 10 years before with nadir of 29,47Kg/m². In the last 4 years, she had regained weight, reaching a body mass index of 46,48Kg/m². Surgical conversion was done laparoscopically, preserving the gastrojejunal anastomosis from the previous RYGB and the proximal 8cm of jejunal alimentary limb, which was transected at this level and used as a bridge between gastric pouch and antrum. Previously, the fundus, gastric body and part of the antrum were removed. The remaining alimentary limb, the gallbladder and the candy cane was removed. This was a single stage procedure, without complications. The interposition of the proximal alimentary limb of gastric bypass, between gastric pouch and antrum, has shown to be safe and feasible in RYGB conversion to SADI-S. The removal of the remnant alimentary limb makes the procedure shorter.*

Keywords: Gastric Bypass, Roux-en-Y Anastomosis, Biliopancreatic Diversion, Obesity, Recurrence.

1. Introduction

The Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) is the second most performed bariatric procedure in the world¹. However, insufficient weight loss or obesity recurrence is observed in 20 to 30% of the patients, in the long-term². Therefore, many of these patients need surgical conversion to a more powerful metabolic surgery. The technical complexity of these conversions, with multiple resections and anastomoses, must be considered³. The conversion of RYGB to one anastomosis duodenal switch with sleeve gastrectomy (SADI-S), although simpler than the conversion to traditional duodenal switch (BPD-DS)⁴, still represents a laborious and technically difficult procedure.

Aim

The present case report describes a simplification of this technique which can contribute to the treatment of insufficient weight loss and/or obesity recurrence in patients previously submitted to RYGB.

Approach

Female patient, 36 years old, submitted to laparoscopic RYGB 10 years before, with 147Kg, 1.64m and BMI-

54.66kg/m². She had hypertension, sleep apnea and moderate hepatic steatosis. In the postoperative period she reached the "nadir" at 18 months (29.47kg/m²) with remission of comorbidities. Over the last 4 years, she started regaining weight, reaching 125kg and a BMI of 46.48kg/m². She had recurrence of comorbidities and developed depression and anxiety, both of which were controlled with medication and psychological therapy. She consulted at Instituto Victor Dib, in Manaus – Amazonas/Brazil, where she underwent full investigation of surgical anatomy, hormonal status and nutritional conditions. Gastrointestinal endoscopy showed a 3cm gastric pouch and a 7cm length candy cane. H. pylori wasn't present. Moderate hepatic steatosis, chronic cholecystitis, iron deficiency and hypovitaminosis D were detected, the last two ones being corrected preoperatively. No other changes were found. After multidisciplinary evaluation and counseling, it was decided to convert the RYGB to SADI-S by videolaparoscopy, associated with cholecystectomy and candy cane resection.

Surgical team, patient, and trocars positions are shown in Figure 1. The surgery steps are described in Table 1.

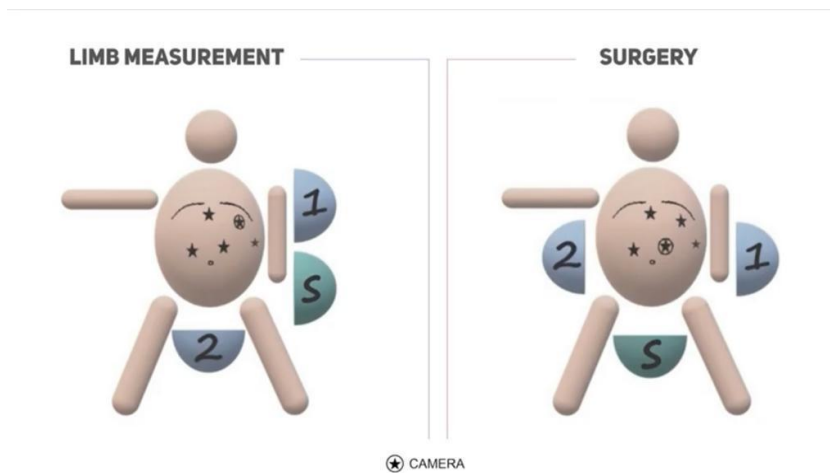


Figure 1: Surgical team, patient, and trocars position.

1– First assistant; 2– Second assistant; S– Surgeon; ★Trocar 12mm; ⊙Optical trocar; *Trocar 5mm.

Table 1 – SURGICAL TIMES

- Surgeon positioned on the patient left side, the assistant on the right and the camera assistant between the legs;
- Patient in 30° anti-Trendelenburg position with left lateralization;
- Cholecystectomy is performed using the retrograde technique;
- Cecum is identified and 300cm of ileal limb is measured, proximally from the ileal cecal valve (ICV), being fixed to greater omentum. The remaining limbs are counted;
- Surgeon stands between patient's legs, assistant on the left and camera assistant on the right. Patient in 30° anti-Trendelenburg position, without lateralization;
- Alimentary limb is identified up to the level of gastro-jejunal anastomosis;
- Candy cane is identified and resected;
- Alimentary limb is transected 8cm distally to the gastro-jejunal anastomosis;
- The remnant stomach is transected horizontally at the level of the antrum, 3cm above the pylorus;
- Mechanical anastomosis is performed between the proximal alimentary limb and the posterior antrum wall;
- The staple hole is closed in a single layer suture with PDS 3-0;
- The antropyloric and proximal duodenum arterial arcade are preserved;
- The duodenum is transected 3cm distally to the pylorus;
- The ileal limb attached to greater omentum is released and a 2cm duodeno-ileal anastomosis is performed, in a continuing two layers 3-0 PDS suture;
- The Petersen space is not closed;
- The remaining alimentary limb from RYGB is resected;
- The anastomoses integrity is tested with methylene blue;
- The specimens (excluded stomach, alimentary limb, candy cane and gallbladder) are removed inside an endobag, after enlargement of left hypochondrium incision;
- The trocars are removed, the aponeurosis is closed (sites of 12mm trocars and the enlarged wound) and the skin is sutured;
- No drains were left;

2. Results

The surgical time was 185 min, without intra or postoperative (PO) complications and hospital stay was 36 hours.

At home, the evolution was uneventful. The total percentage weight loss was 28.8% at 90 days PO; Gastrointestinal endoscopy, at fortieth PO, showed no abnormalities. In the third month follow-up, abdominal CT with 3D reconstruction demonstrated adequate surgical anatomy (Figure 2), and normal progression of contrast to the cecum.

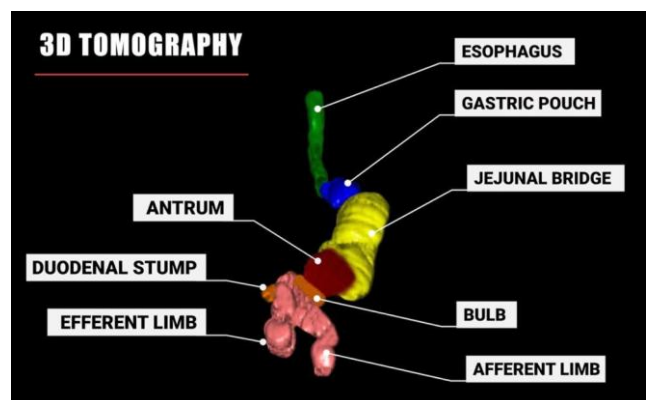


Figure 2: 3D tomography showing the surgery anatomical configuration.

3. Discussion

In the case reported, a decision to convert the RYGB to SADI-S, by videolaparoscopy, was made based in literature data that shows a very close weight loss results, compared to BPD-DS, with fewer nutritional complications and, being technically simpler⁵. The gastrojejunal anastomosis of the RYGB was preserved, avoiding adhesions in this region⁶. The proximal jejunal alimentary limb from RYGB was used as a bridge between the gastric pouch and the antrum, avoiding the gastrogastro anastomosis, which has a significant incidence of fistulas, ulcers and refractory strictures^{3,7}. The conversion of RYGB to BPD-DS with a hybrid technique has been described in the literature⁷. The lower tension and better vascularization in the jejuno-antral anastomosis probably reduce the risk of anastomotic complications.

Cholecystectomy was performed due to gallstones presence and the "candy cane" was resected, which could be a cause of epigastric pain⁸. The remnant stomach was resected, keeping the distal antrum and pylorus as part of gastric reservoir^{3,7}. After evaluating the adequate intestinal limb extension, the remnant jejunal alimentary limb was resected, preventing the possibility of bacterial overgrowth⁹. The reimplantation of this hypertrophied alimentary jejunal limb in the intestinal transit was avoided, considering it could compromise weight loss¹⁰.

It was decided to preserve the antral and duodenal arterial arcades, minimizing risks of ischemia in the duodenal-ileal anastomosis¹¹. This was performed 300cm from ICV, a measurement considered effective for weight loss and nutritionally safe¹². The Petersen space was not closed, taking into account that internal hernias in SADI-S are rare^{12,13}.

4. Conclusion

Laparoscopic conversion from RYGB to SADI-S in a single step, using the jejunal bridge between gastric pouch and antrum, avoiding gastrogastro anastomosis, together with the resection of remnant jejunal alimentary limb, showed to be safe, fast and make this procedure more reproducible.

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