

Use of Disposable Stomach Clamp Results in Efficient Usage of Staple Loads at Time of Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy

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Introduction

There is a tremendous amount of variability in technique for performing vertical sleeve gastrectomy and in the number of staple loads used to perform the operation. In our experience, five to six loads are typically required to perform the operation. Recently, a disposable gastric clamp has become available to aid in performance of vertical sleeve gastrectomy with a goal of standardizing vertical sleeve gastrectomy. This retrospective study evaluated the number of staple loads used to perform vertical sleeve gastrectomy in the first 39 patients undergoing the procedure with this device.

Methods

From November 29, 2017 to April 24, 2018, 39 patients had laparoscopic vertical sleeve gastrectomy at our institution utilizing a disposable gastric clamp to fix the relationship of the stomach to the stapler.

Discussion

Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy utilizing a stomach clamp reduces the number of loads fired to an average of 3.9 loads per operation. This is a reduction in the number of loads used in our institution. In addition to a time and cost savings performing the operation, there appears to be a more consistent radiographic appearance of the postoperative day one upper GI appearance of the stomach.



Results

Of the 39 patients, five patients required three staple loads to complete sleeve gastrectomy. The remaining 34 patients required four staple loads to perform the operation for overall mean of 3.9 loads. There were no intraoperative adverse events and no postoperative staple line complications in this group of patients. No patients had any postoperative nausea.

Number of Patients Reviewed	39
Number of Loads used per operation	3.9
Average Preoperative Weight	293 pounds (194-499)
Average Preoperative BMI	48 (36-66)
Excess Weight Loss	51%
Average length of follow up	6.3 months (1.5-9)