

Frequency of Preoperative Emergency Department Visits Predicts Increased Risk of Postoperative ED Return in Bariatric Surgical Patients

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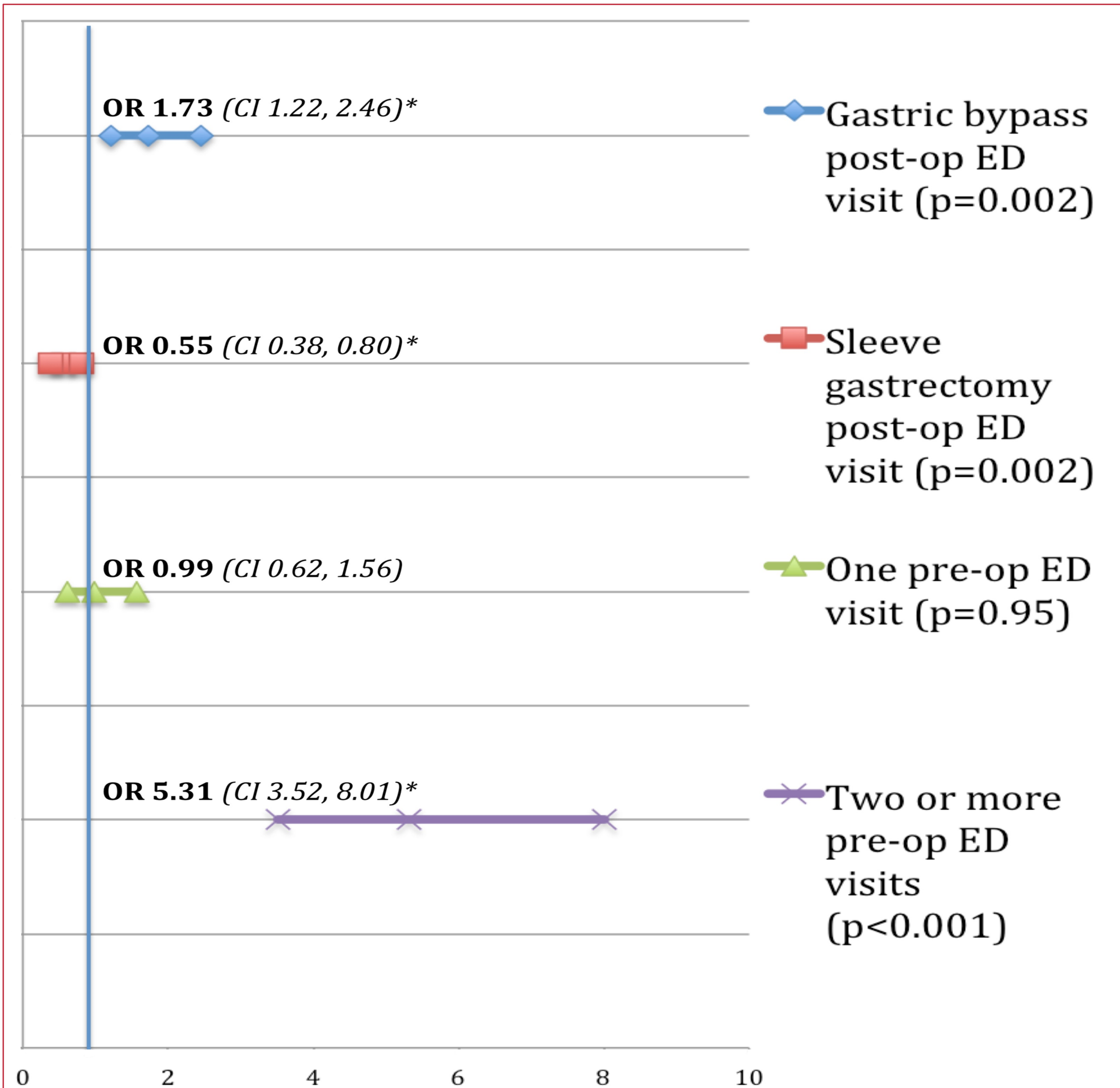
Background

- A history of a previous Emergency Department (ED) visit has been shown to strongly predict a return ED visit in the general patient population.
- Identifying health services risk factors which anticipate and prevent post-operative ED visits in bariatric surgery patients has the potential to improve patient care and reduce cost.

AIM: To determine whether increased frequency of ED visits *prior* to bariatric surgery predicts increased risk of ED visits in the 90-days following surgery.

Methods

- Retrospective data analysis from a single university hospital of patients who underwent bariatric surgery between January 2011-May 2019
- ED visits within two years prior to surgery date and within 90-days post surgery were captured
- Univariate logistic regression was used to compare ED visit rates



Results

- 1043 bariatric surgery patients were evaluated
- 23.4% (244 patients) had ED visits within two years before surgery
- 19.8% (206 patients) had post-operative ED visits within 90 days
- The majority of patients had gastric bypass (66.5%, 694 patients), followed by sleeve gastrectomy (27.7%, 289 patients)
- Consistent with other published findings, gastric bypass patients were more likely to visit the ED within 90-days post- operatively (OR 1.73, p-value 0.002)
- The odds of 90-day post-operative ED visit increased significantly for patients with a history of two or more pre-operative ED visits (OR 5.31, p-value <0.001)

Conclusions

- Patients were more likely to return to the ED within 90-days post-operatively if they had two or more ED visits within two years prior to their bariatric operation
- Recognition of a pattern of frequent preoperative ED visits may serve as a targetable risk factor for patient education and discharge planning to reduce number of ED visits in the post-operative period