Utility of Laparoscopy in Evaluation of Gastric Bypass Patients With Abdominal Pain

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Background

- Up to 54% of patients who undergo a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass present post-operatively with complaints of abdominal pain.
- The most common causes of pain are internal hernia, marginal ulcer, biliary disease, obstruction, intussusception, or anastomotic stricture.
- CT scans have a low sensitivity for surgical pathologies. At least 15% of patients with internal hernia may have a normal CT scan result.

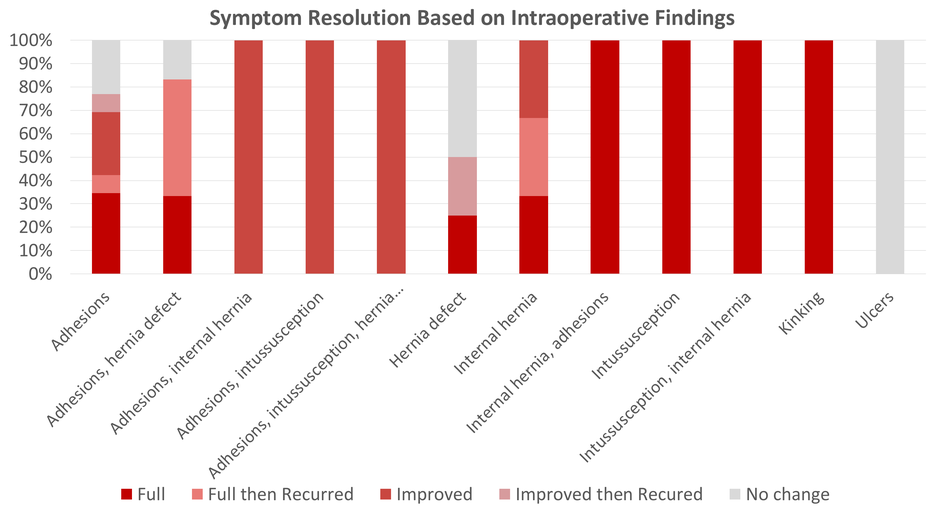
Objective

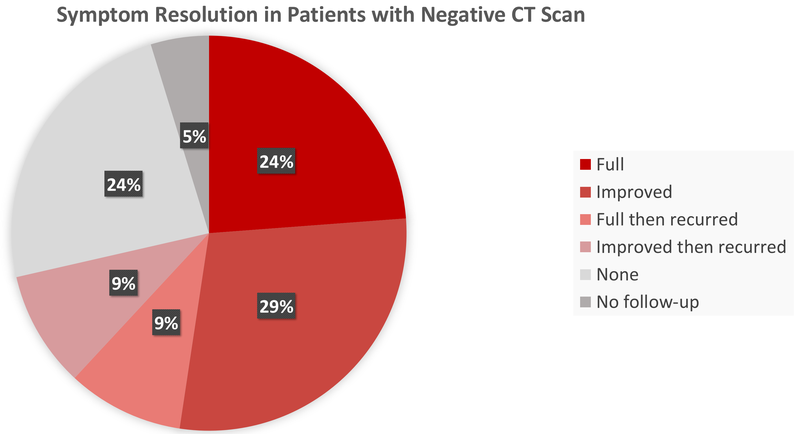
- To evaluate the utility of diagnostic laparoscopy in diagnosis and treatment of abdominal pain in outpatients after gastric bypass surgery.

Design and Methods

- Case series of gastric bypass patients evaluated in clinic between 2015-2024 for visceral abdominal pain
  - Exclusions:
    - Presentation to the emergency room
    - Inpatient admission resulting in urgent/emergent surgery
- Retrospective evaluation of patient demographics, imaging, and operative findings was completed from the electronic medical record
- Groups based on imaging findings and intraoperative findings were compared using descriptive statistics to determine the likelihood patients would experience symptomatic relief after an elective diagnostic laparoscopy

Results





Results

Symptom improvement for full case series

	Number of Patients N = 47	Percentage of Patients
Full	14	29.79%
Full then Recurred	6	12.77%
Improved	11	23.40%
Improved then Recured	3	6.38%
No	10	21.28%
No Follow-Up	3	6.38%

Conclusions

- In patients with visceral abdominal pain following gastric bypass, CT scans do not definitively rule out partial or intermittent small bowel obstruction.
- In this small retrospective study, diagnostic laparoscopy for symptoms of partial or intermittent obstruction in the setting of a negative CT scan resulted in symptom improvement in 71.4% of patients
- Almost 24% had complete symptom resolution.
- In patients with visceral abdominal pain following gastric bypass and negative CT imaging, diagnostic laparoscopy has the the potential to provide additional information, result in symptom improvement, and can be safely performed on an outpatient basis.