# Editorial On GERD Screening and Its Role In Bariatric Patients

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## INTRODUCTION

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a condition in which gastric contents empty into the esophagus and can damage the esophageal epithelium, increasing the risk of developing Barrett's esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma. Our objective is to provide a comprehensive review of the existing literature surrounding current GERD screening guidelines among bariatric patients, as well as explain why EsoGuard is an effective screening tool for GERD and has the potential to become the gold standard.

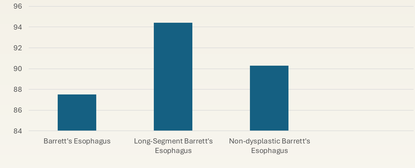
## METHODS

We did a thorough literature search on PUBMED and Google Scholar to include articles on GERD screening that have been available to date.

## Results

We have noticed that EsoGuard better fits the criteria for a screening tool according to the AMA Journal of Ethics, which defines an effective screening tool as easily accessible, affordable, safe, reproducible, and consistently demonstrates high sensitivity and specificity. Esoguard has a sensitivity of 87.5% and a specificity of 81.2% in detecting Barrett's esophagus and can be increased to 94.4% for long-segment Barrett's esophagus and 90.3% for Non-dysplastic Barrett's according to gene methylation (VIM, CCNA1) studies. Many bariatric surgeons are calling into question the need for an EGD prior to bariatric surgery. This can be supported by data in one meta-analysis examining 31 retrospective observational studies that found that only 3.9% of pre-op EGDs resulted in a change to the future bariatric surgery. EsoGuard may have a role in replacing future pre-op EGDs as a more practical screening tool in bariatric patients.

**Comparing Sensitivity of EsoGuard In Different Types of Barrett's Esophagus**




## Conclusion

It is clear that there is no true universal screening tool for GERD that is affordable and practical. Despite its efficacy, EGDs are costly in both money and time. Emerging technologies like EsoGuard are a promising alternative for clinicians and patients. More research is needed on the efficacy of EsoGuard, but it could provide an effective and less invasive option for measuring esophageal function and health.

## References

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