

Title: Incidental Findings of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST) During Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy

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Introduction

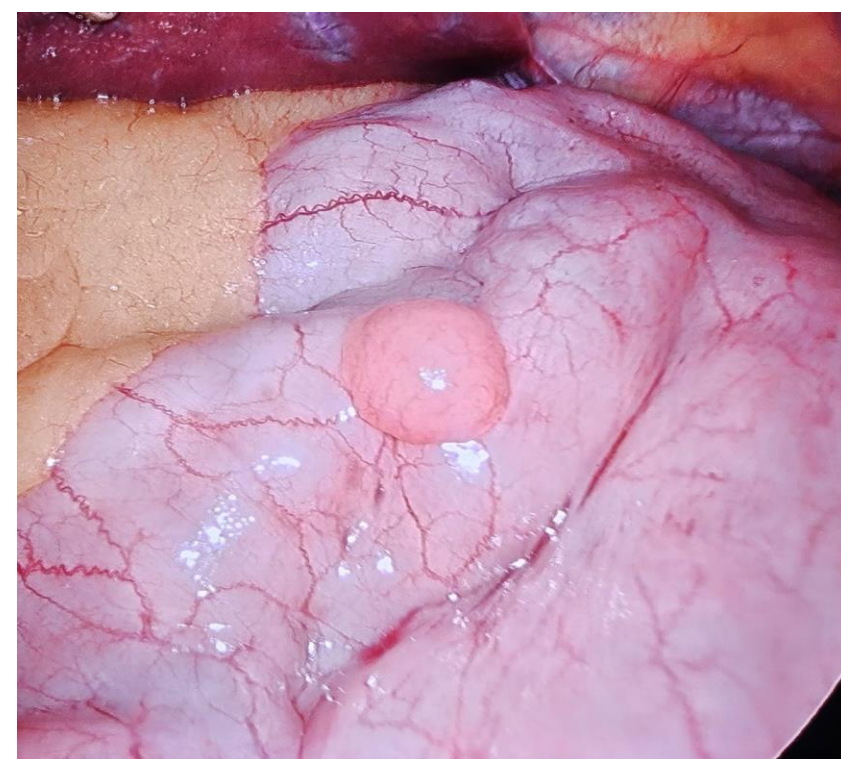
Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumour (GIST) is the most common mesenchymal tumour of the gastrointestinal tract. 50-60% of all GIST are found in the stomach. The aim of this study is to evaluate the incidence, characteristics and management of incidental gastric GIST during bariatric surgery.

Materials and methods

A review of all gastric GIST identified in a prospectively collected database of 3120 patients undergoing laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) over the past 15 years was performed. Patient demographics, histopathology and management of all these patients were evaluated.

Results

Of the 3120 patients 6 were found to have incidental GIST. All of these patients were female. Average age was 42 (38-45). None of the patients had pre-operative symptoms suggestive of gastric pathology. Four of the GIST lesions were noted intra-operatively. Post-operative histopathology showed low mitotic index on all GISTs complete excision. The sizes range from 6 to 18mm. Five were located on the serosal surface of the body of the stomach and one on the fundus of the stomach. All GISTs were resected as part of the sleeve gastrectomy operations. All patients were disease free at 18 months follow up.



Discussion / Conclusion

There is a low overall incidence of incidental GIST in our series. Pre-operative imaging is not routinely performed before LSG. To achieve complete resection for curative intent, the surgeon needs to be vigilant intra-operatively for incidental GIST. Failure to detect incidental GISTs intra-operatively could lead to incomplete margins and potentially necessitate further operations.