

Current pathways on the management of post-operative bariatric emergencies in the United Kingdom – a national survey

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I have no potential conflict of interest to report.



Introduction



Bariatric and metabolic surgery is increasingly performed globally especially with the rise of medical tourism.



Patients who undergo bariatric procedures can develop complications and may present with an acute abdomen to the emergency department.



Management of these patients may pose unique challenges to the on-call general surgeon due to their atypical, insidious presentation and altered gut anatomy.

Aims

- To evaluate current pathways on the management of post-operative bariatric emergencies in the United Kingdom and general surgeon's confidence in managing these



How are patients managed on the general surgery acute take?



Are general surgeons, regardless of subspecialty, confident in managing bariatric complications?

Methods



**Online
national
survey**



**Consultants,
fellows &
trainees in
general surgery**



**Open for one
month**

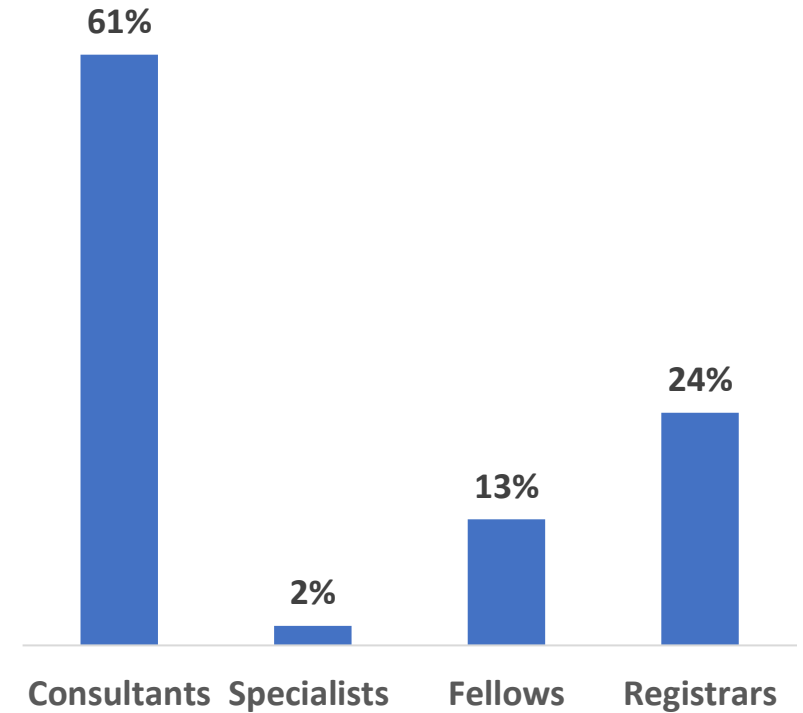
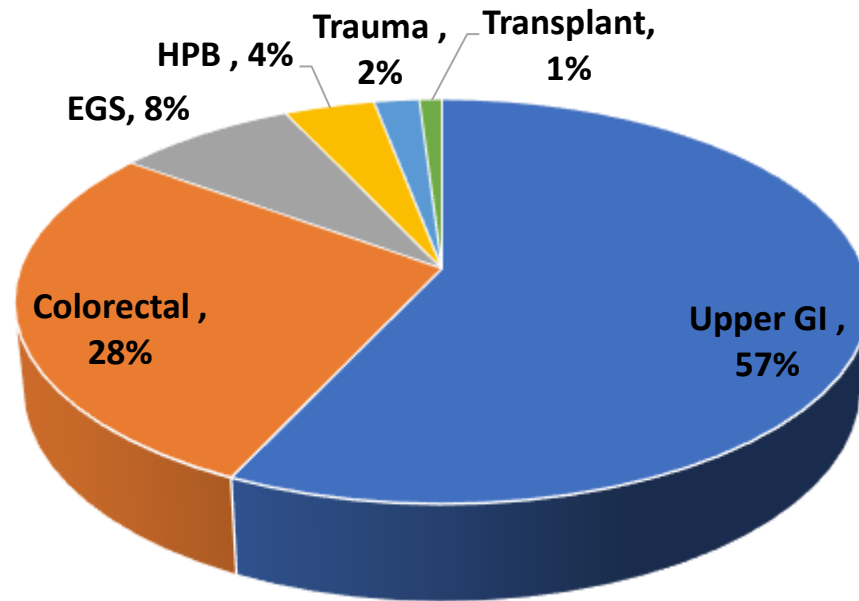


Distributed by BOMSS & TUGS

Results



85
respondents



Results



68%

have specialist
bariatric surgery
services

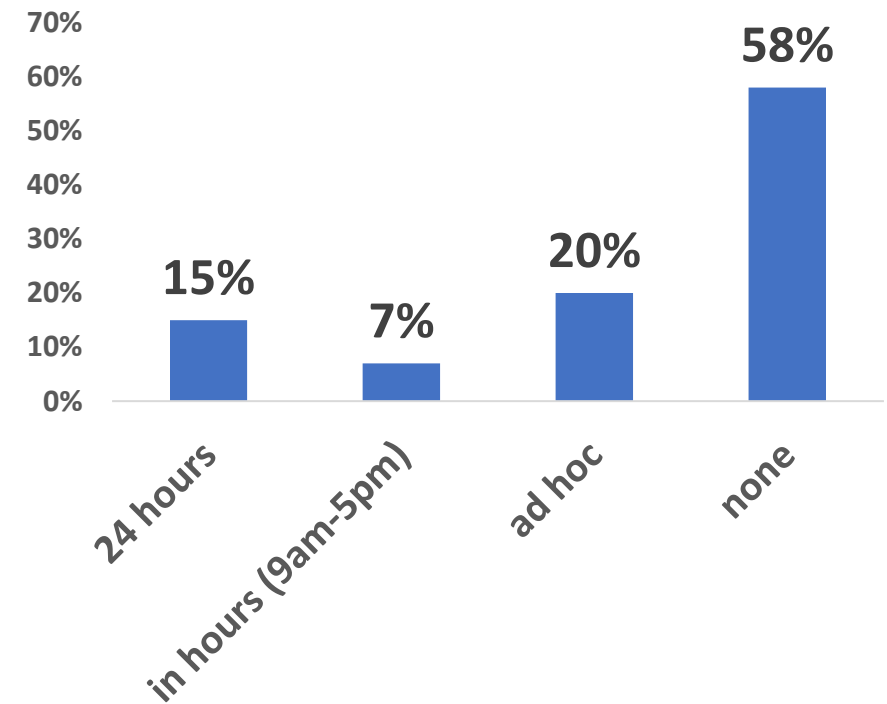
52% work at high
volume units

95%

have managed
post-op bariatric
emergencies
on the acute take

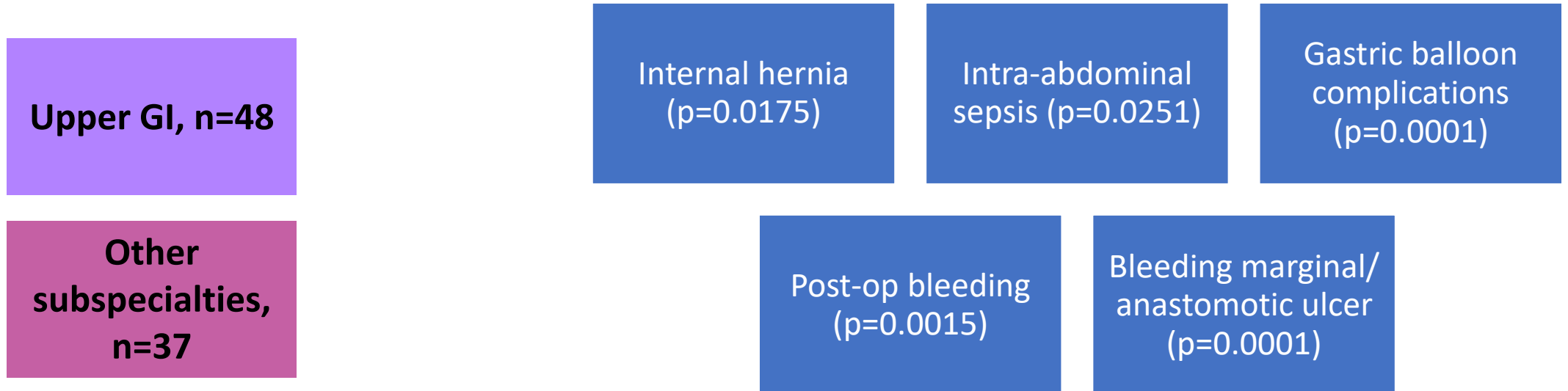
**Median number of 5
patients/ year**

**Provision of bariatric on-call services by
institution**



Results

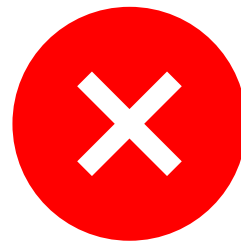
Chi square analysis on subspecialty and general surgeons' confidence in managing bariatric emergencies



Results

62%

**Perceive a need
for dedicated
bariatric on-call
services within
their region**



Ability to offer definitive care

Early re-intervention rates

Support of multidisciplinary team

Overall improved quality of care

Funding required

True emergencies can be managed by
'damage control' principles

Low incidence of post-operative bariatric
emergencies per unit per year

Limitations

- Sampling and selection bias
- Not truly representative of nationwide practice in the UK

Conclusion

The provision of bariatric surgery on-call service is variable across the United Kingdom. A national audit or registry for patients presenting with post-operative bariatric emergencies is required to adequately inform a need for dedicated bariatric on-call services.



Thank you



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