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# Diagnosis and management of hypoglycemia after RYGB and OAGB

**A.p. Prof. Priv. Doz. Daniel Moritz Felsenreich, MD, PHD, FACS, FEBS**

Division of Visceral Surgery

Department of General Surgery

**Medical University of Vienna**

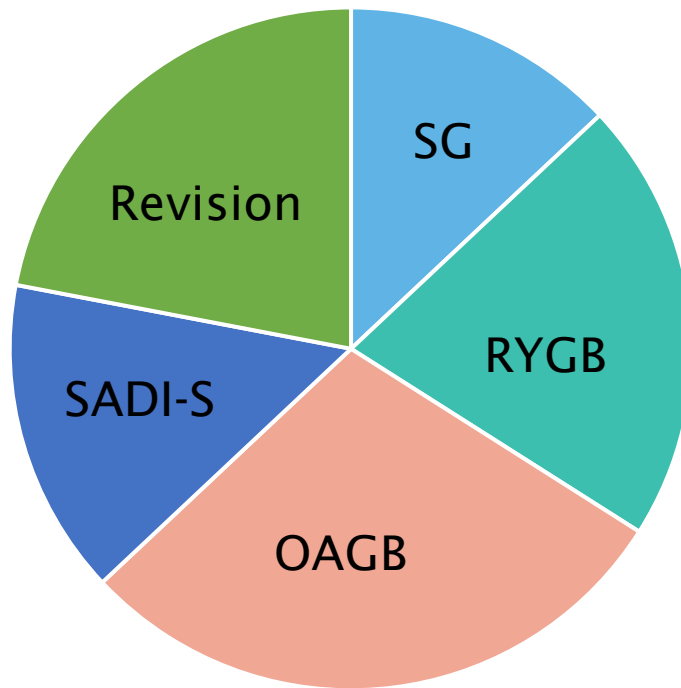
Executive Director of IFSO-EC

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# Disclosures

Nothing to disclose

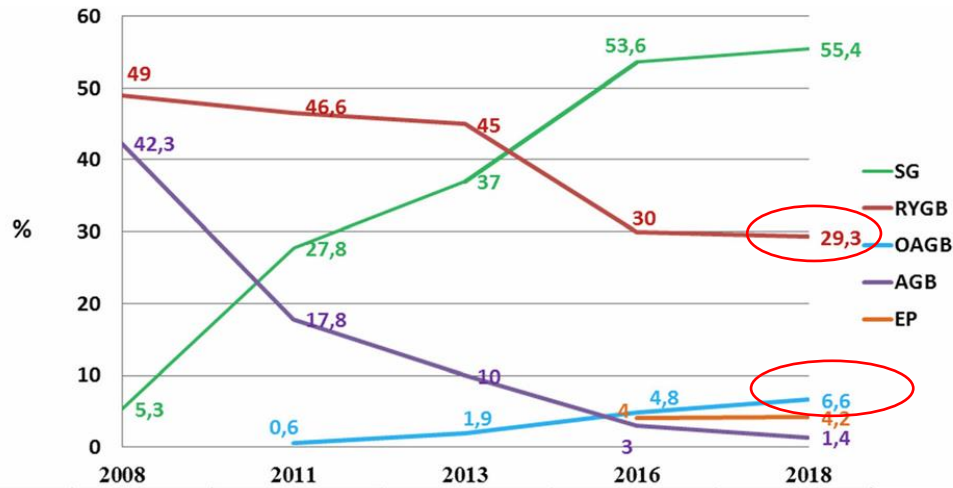
# Case mix



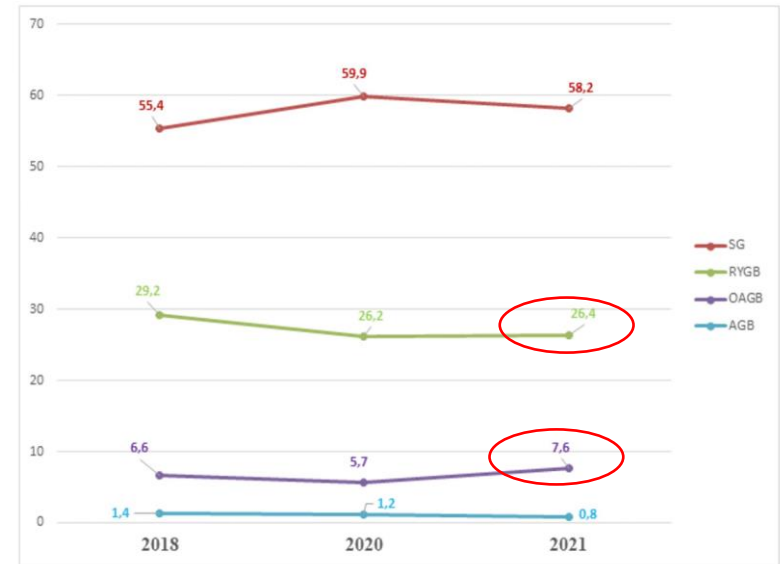
LAGB	0%
SG	13%
RYGB	21%
OAGB	29%
SADI-S	15%
Revision	22%

# Background

## Metabolic / bariatric operations worldwide by 2021

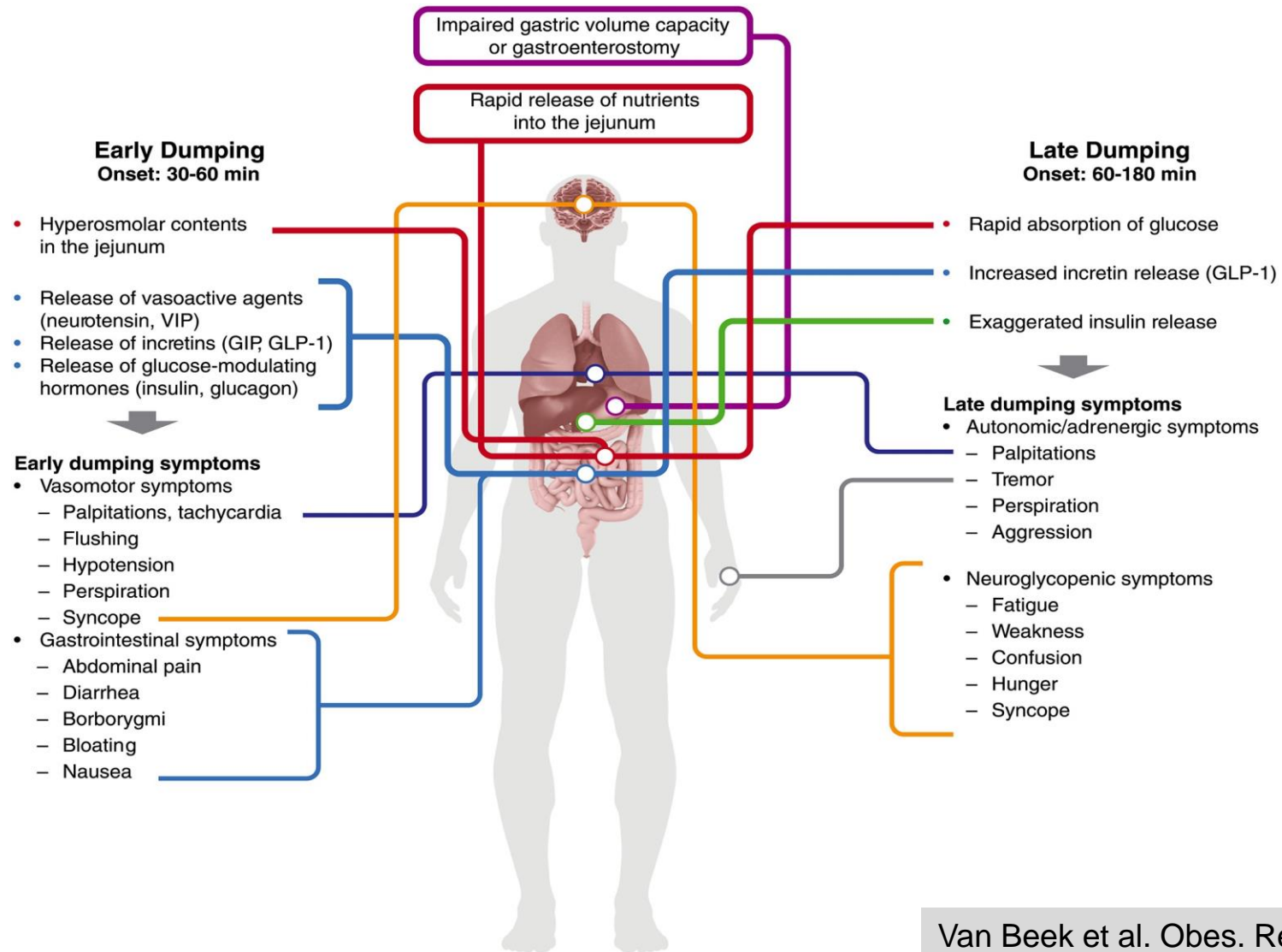


Bariatric procedures (N)	2008	2011	2013	2016	2018
	344,221	340,768	468,609	685,874	696,191



Angrisani L. et al. Obes Surg 2024

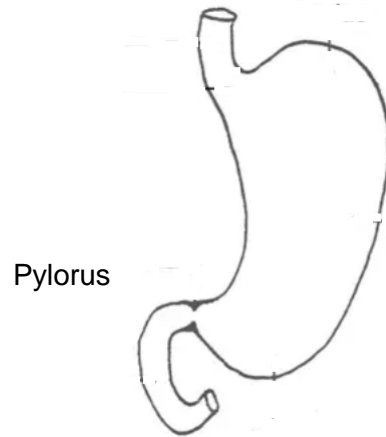
# Mechanism



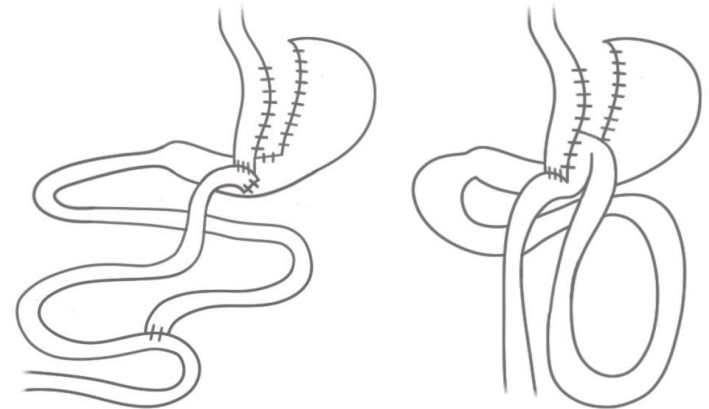
Van Beek et al. Obes. Rev. 2017

# Mechanism

Normal stomach



After RYGB and OAGB



Pylorus vs. no pylorus in the food stream

Late dumping after intake of simple carbohydrates due to a hyperinsulinic hypoglycemia

# Mechanism

ANNALS OF MEDICINE  
2021, VOL. 53, NO. 1, 1885–1895  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2021.1964035>

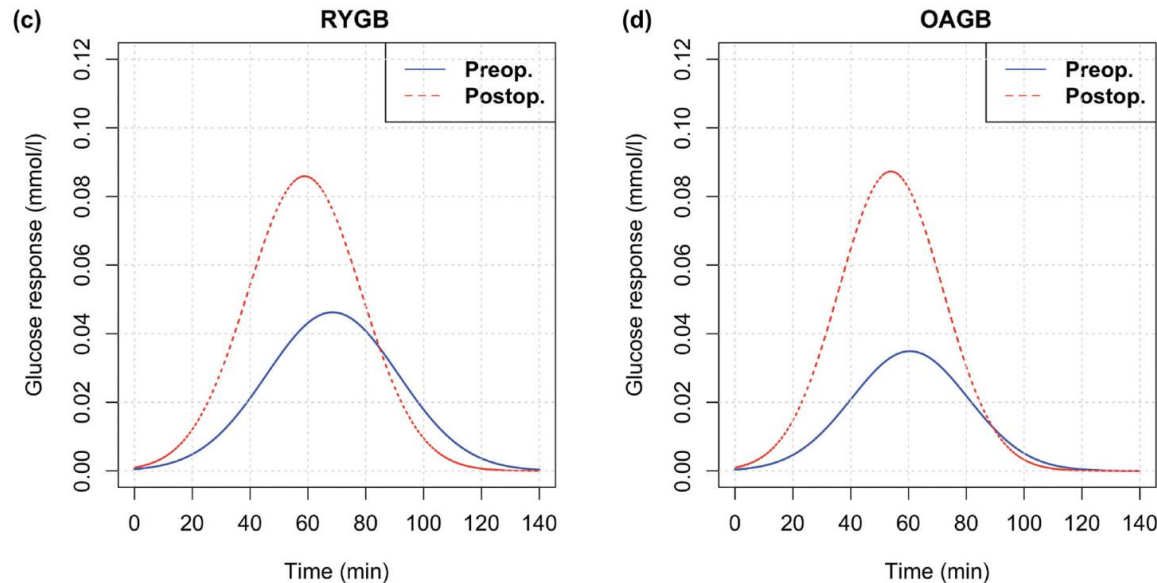


ENDOCRINOLOGY

OPEN ACCESS

## Computational modelling of self-reported dietary carbohydrate intake on glucose concentrations in patients undergoing Roux-en-Y gastric bypass versus one-anastomosis gastric bypass

Reza A. Ashrafi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Aila J. Ahola<sup>b,c,d,\*</sup>, Milla Rosengård-Bärlund<sup>e</sup>, Tuure Saarinen<sup>b,f</sup>, Sini Heinonen<sup>b</sup>, Anne Juuti<sup>f</sup>, Pekka Marttinen<sup>a</sup> and Kirsi H. Pietiläinen<sup>b,e</sup>



Glucose curves pre- and postoperative after RYGB and OAGB

Ashrafi R. et al. Annals of Medicine 2021

# Symptoms

Tiredness

Heart palpitations

Craving for food

Dizziness

Collapse

etc.



# Definition

There are different definitions and cut-off levels being used.

Most commonly used:

„**Hypoglycaemia below 50 mg/dl** is suggestive of late dumping syndrome“ (Grade B)

Simpson et al. Am J. Clin. Nutr. 2008

# Diagnostics

## Sigstad's Scoring System

> 7 points → indicative

< 4 points → unlikely

- Established for Billroth II patients

- Shock +5
- Fainting (syncope), unconsciousness +4
- Desire to lie or sit down +4
- Breathlessness (dyspnoea) +3
- Weakness, exhaustion +3
- Sleepiness, drowsiness, apathy, falling asleep +3
- Palpitation +3
- Restlessness +2
- Dizziness +2
- Headaches +1
- Feeling of warmth, sweating, pallor, clammy skin +1
- Nausea +1
- Abdominal fullness, meteorism +1
- Borborygmus +1
- Eructation -1
- Vomiting -4

# Diagnostics

## Arts Dumping Severity Score

- Distinguishes between early/late dumping
- Estimation of the severity
- Unclear test accuracy

### Early dumping syndrome symptoms

- Sweating
- Flushing
- Dizziness
- Palpitations
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Bloating
- Nausea

### Late dumping syndrome symptoms

- Sweating
- Palpitations
- Hunger
- Drowsiness and/or unconsciousness
- Tremor
- Irritability

### Severity score

For each symptom: 0 = absent, 1 = mild, 2 = relevant and 3 = severe

# Diagnostics

## OGTT – Oral glucose tolerance test

### Procedure:

Intake of 75g glucose

Measurement of glucose, haematocrit, heart rate, blood pressure in 30 min. intervals for 3h

### Early dumping:

- Haematocrit  $\uparrow > 3\%$  or
  - Heart rate  $\uparrow > 10$  beats/min
- < 30 min. after glucose intake

### Late dumping:

- **Blood glucose  $< 50$  mg/dl**
- > 1h after glucose intake

# Diagnostics

## MMTT – Mixed meal tolerance test

### Procedure:

- Intake of a standardized meal in 20 min.
- ~460 kcal; ~14 g fat, ~60 g carbohydrates (20 g simple sugars), 16 g protein

### Late dumping:

- **Blood glucose < 50 mg/dl**
- > 1 h after glucose intake



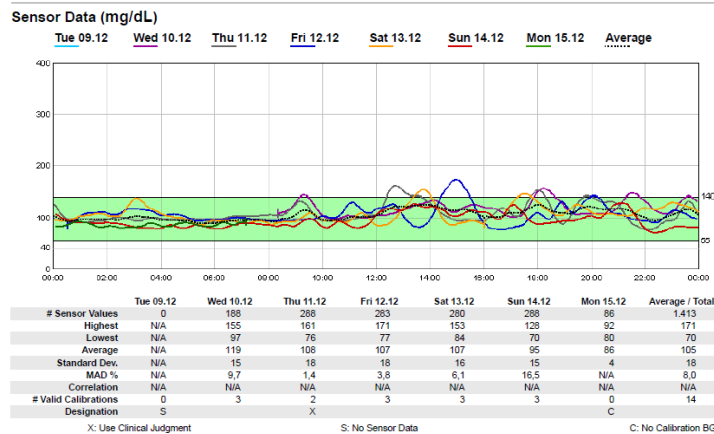
# Diagnosics

## CGM – Continuous glucose monitoring

### Procedure:

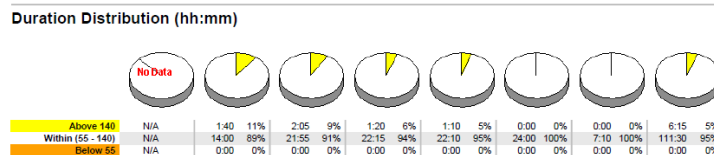
Measurement of subcutaneous blood glucose levels for several days

Combination with a food logbook



**Excursion Summary (mg/dL/day)**

	Tue 09.12	Wed 10.12	Thu 11.12	Fri 12.12	Sat 13.12	Sun 14.12	Mon 15.12	Average / Total
# Excursions	0	4	3	2	2	0	0	11
# High Excursions	0	4	3	2	2	0	0	11
# Low Excursions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AUC Above Limit	N/A	0,7	0,7	0,9	0,3	0,0	0,0	0,5
AUC Below Limit	N/A	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0



# Hypoglycemia after Roux-En-Y gastric bypass: detection rates of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) versus mixed meal test

Ronald Kefurt, M.D.<sup>a</sup>, Felix B. Langer, M.D.<sup>a</sup>, Karin Schindler, Ph.D.<sup>b</sup>, Soheila Shakeri-Leidenmühler, M.D.<sup>a</sup>, Bernhard Ludvik, M.D.<sup>b</sup>, Gerhard Prager, M.D.<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

<sup>b</sup>Department of Internal Medicine 3, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Received May 7, 2014; accepted November 3, 2014

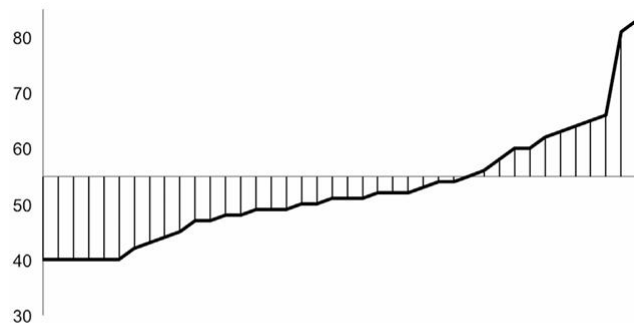


Fig. 2. Lowest blood glucose levels detected by continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) in the series of 40 patients after a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass. Blood glucose levels of below 40 mg/dl (2.2 mmol/L) are expressed as 40 mg/dl (2.2 mmol/L).

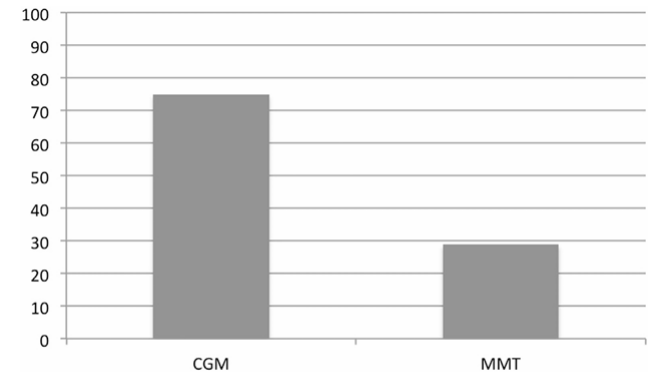


Fig. 1. Detection rates (%) of post-gastric bypass hypoglycemic episodes comparing CGM (continuous glucose monitoring), MMT (mixed meal test). CGM continuous glucose monitoring MMT mixed meal tolerance test

40 patients after RYGB

Higher detection rates of hypoglycaemia with CGM than with MMTT

Over 75% patients with hypoglycaemic episodes after RYGB

Kefurt R. et al. SOARD 2014

# Conservative therapy

## Dietological interventions

**First-line intervention - usually beneficial for the majority of patients**

Multiple small meals during the day

Liquid intake after a minimum of 30 mins following meal

**No simple carbohydrates!** Intake of complex carbohydrates

Increasing fibres and protein in one's diet

Slow food intake and good chewing

Avoiding alcoholic drinks



# Conservative therapy

## Acarbose

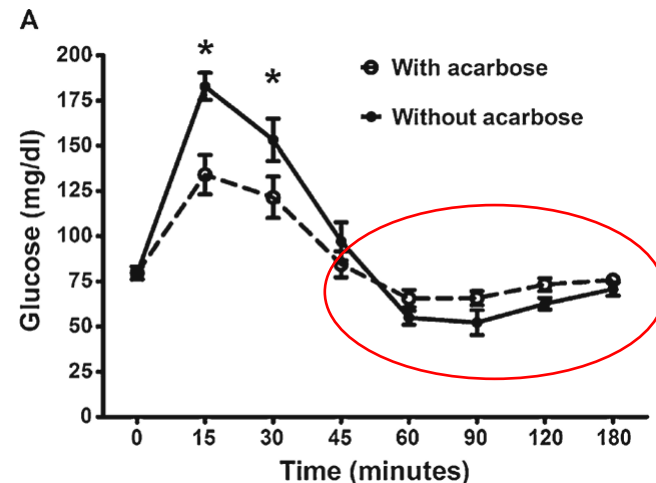
$\alpha$ -glucosidase-inhibitor

**Inhibits the hydrolysis** of oligo-, tri- and disaccharides to monosaccharides → reduction of blood glucose after food intake

**Gastrointestinal side effects** due to fermentation in the bowel

5 patients  
Hypoglycaemia after RYGB

**Improvement in all patients**



Valderas J.P. et al. *Obes. Surg* 2012

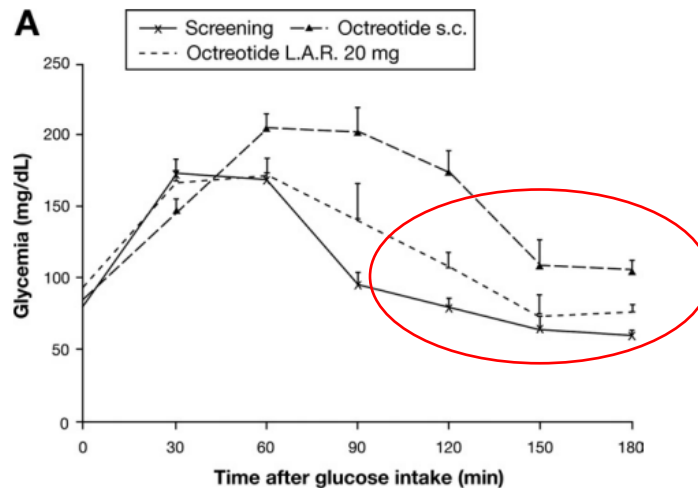
# Conservative therapy

## Somatostatin analogues (e.g. Octreotid)

Daily s.c. or monthly i.m.

Decreases stomach emptying and small bowel transition, inhibits secretion of gastrointestinal hormones

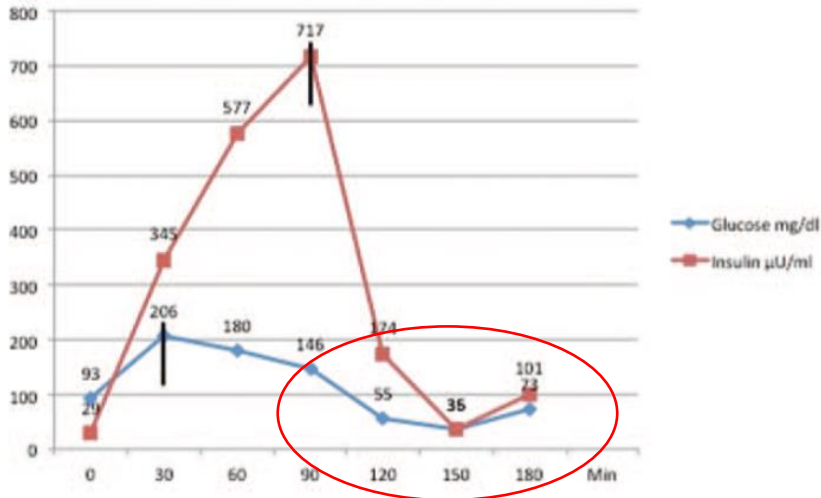
**Gastrointestinal side effects, recurrent weight gain.**



Arts E. et al. Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2009

# Conservative therapy

## GLP-1 agonist (e.g. Liraglutide)

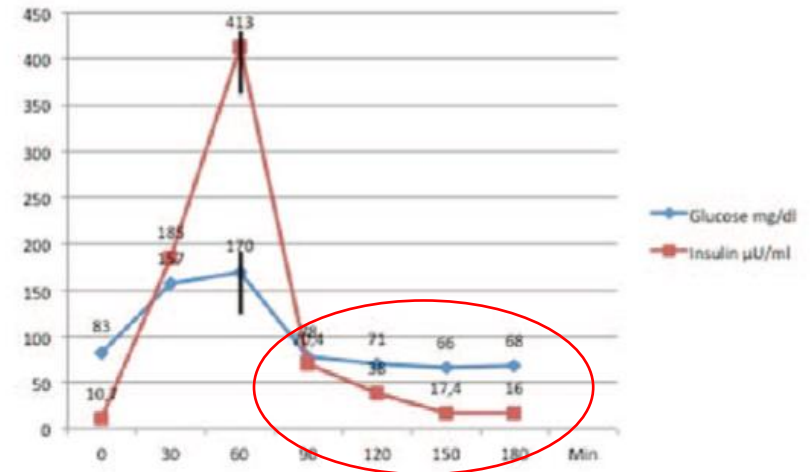


**Figure 1.** The dynamics of insulin release during OGTT without liraglutide treatment. Note the lack of synchronization of the peak of insulin release to that of serum glucose level.

## OGTT without GLP-1

### Lower insulin peak with GLP-1

### Improvement of late dumping after gastric surgery



**Figure 2.** Relationship between the dynamics of insulin release during the OGTT with 1.2 mg liraglutide treatment. Note the optimal synchronization of the peaking of both serum glucose and insulin levels. The rapid decline in insulin output led to a rapid stabilization of serum glucose level and resolution of late dumping symptoms.

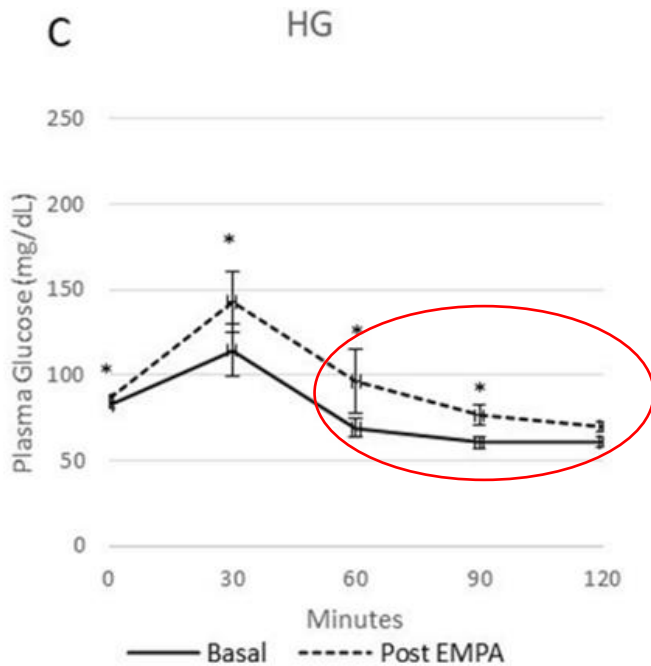
## OGTT with GLP-1

Chiapetta S. et al. Medicine 2017

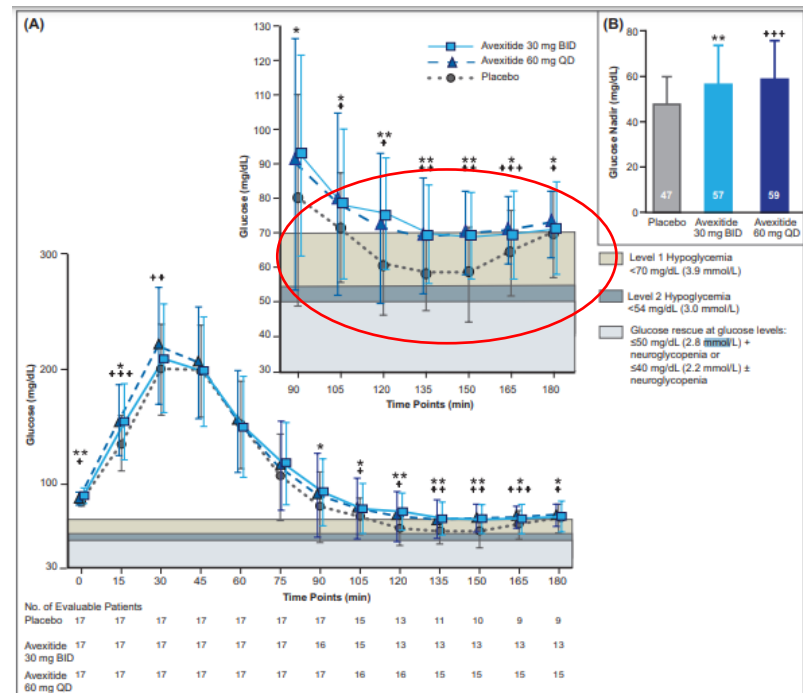
# Conservative therapy

Further treatment:

## SGLT-2 inhibitor



## GLP-1 antagonist (e.g. Avexitide)



Carpentiri G. et al. *Obes. Surg* 2022

Craig et.al. /Prevent study *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metabol.* 2021

# Surgical treatment

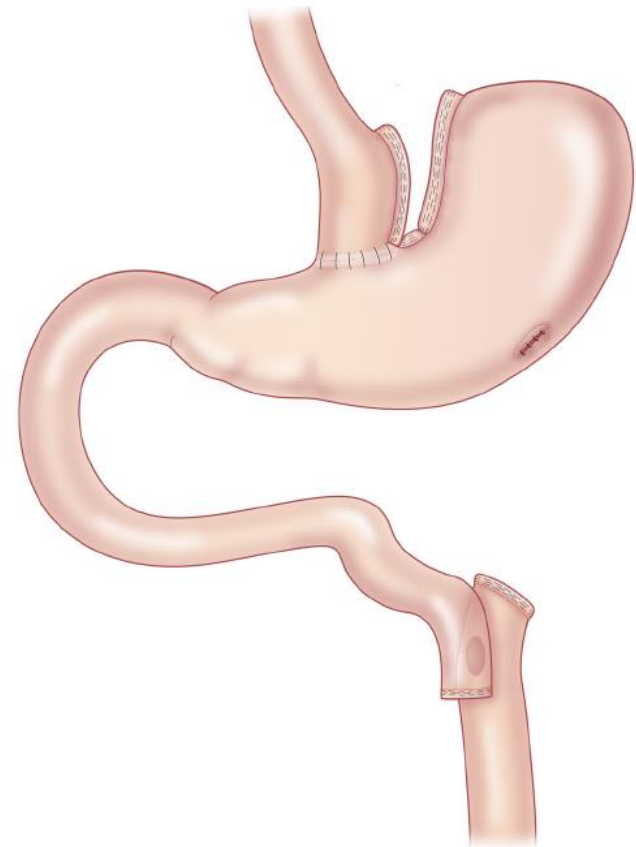
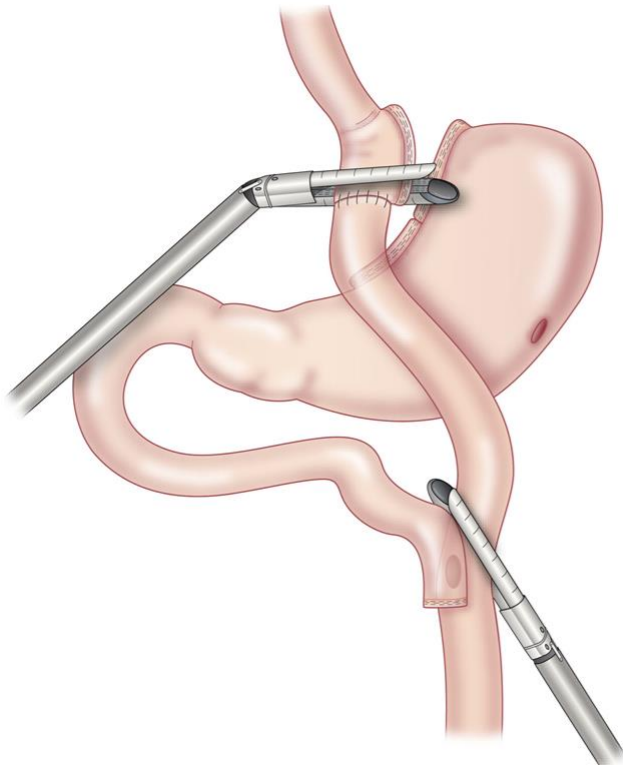


Fig. 3. Final aspect—laparoscopic reversal to normal anatomy.

5 patients

12 months follow-up

Campos G. et al. SOARD 2014

# Surgical treatment

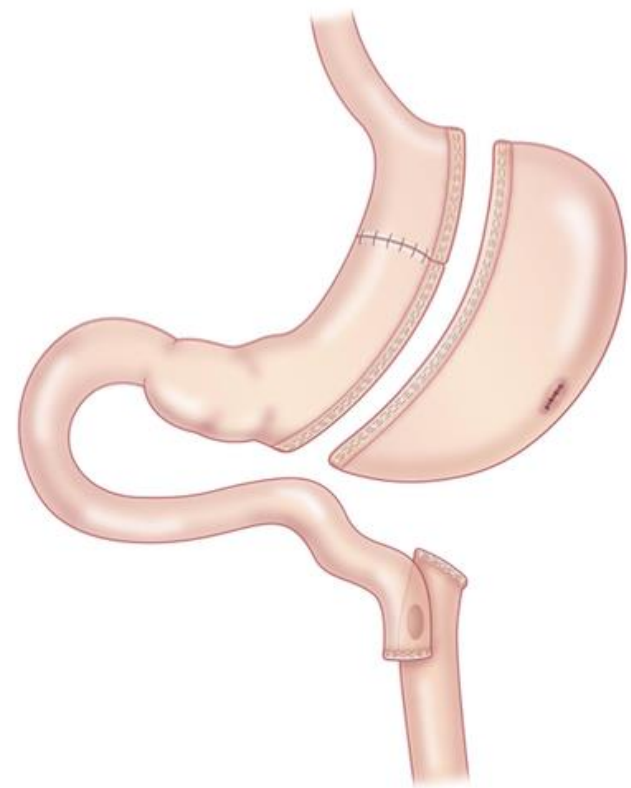
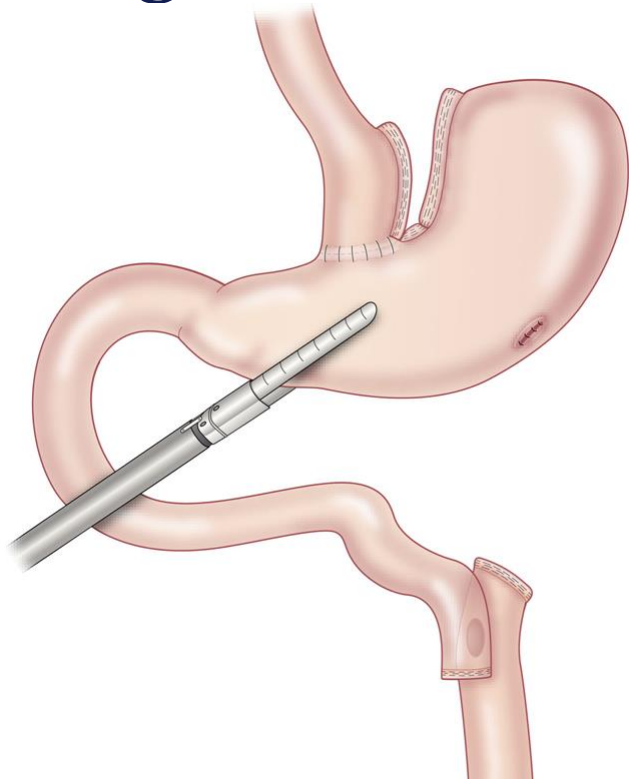
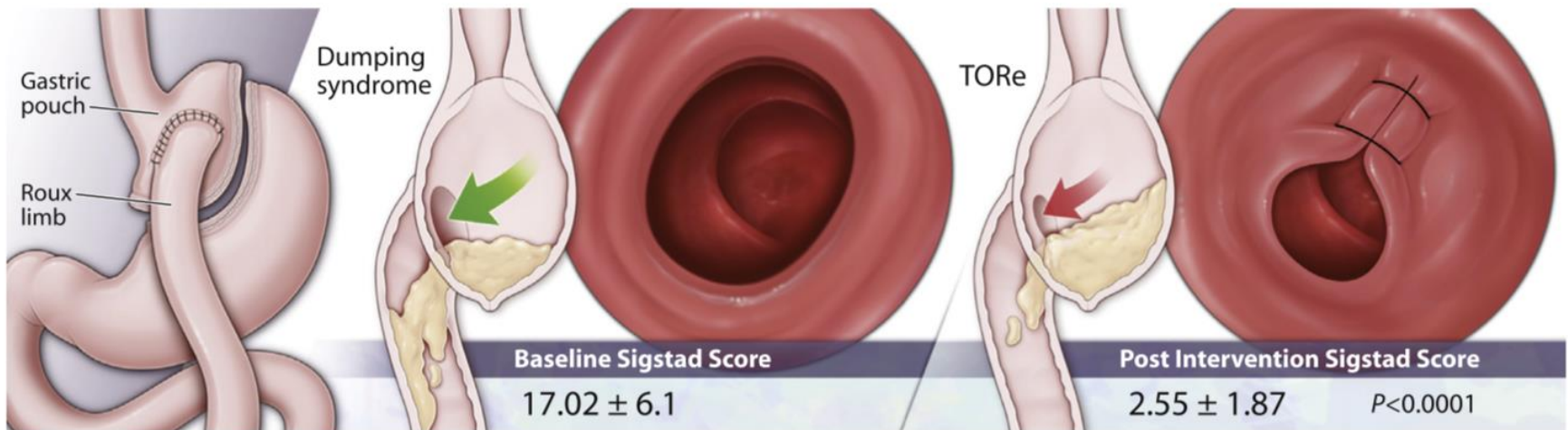


Fig. 5. Final aspect – laparoscopic reversal to modified sleeve gastrectomy (excised stomach is then removed from the abdominal cavity).

Hypoglycemic episodes per week decreased from 18.5 to 1.5

Campos G. et al. SOARD 2014

# Endoscopic treatment



115 patients

Reduction of the anastomosis to 10mm

Only 3 months follow-up

Outcome:

**Significant postinterventional reduction of the Sigstad score**

Vargas et al, Gastroint Endoscopy 2020



## Potential Risk of Hypoglycaemia in Gastric Bypass Patients with Their Profession in Public Transportation System

D. M. Felsenreich<sup>1</sup> · G. Prager<sup>1</sup> · S. Chiappetta<sup>2</sup> · C. Stier<sup>3</sup>



Selection of the **best metabolic / bariatric procedure** for the individual patient:

Procedures with the **pylorus in the food stream** for patients with their profession in the public transportation system

Felsenreich DM. et al. Obes Surg. 2023



# Conclusion:

There are different diagnostic tools for the detection of hypoglycaemia available

**CGM** seems to be the best option for the diagnosis of hypoglycaemia after MBS

**Dietological intervention** (+ medical therapy) is mostly successful in the treatment of hypoglycaemia

If conservative treatment fails, surgical (bringing the **pylorus back to the food stream**) or endoscopic interventions are promising options.

# Thank you for your attention!



**Gerhard Prager**

Felix Langer

**Daniel Moritz Felsenreich**

Larissa Nixdorf

Magdalena Eilenberg

Julia Jedamzik

Christoph Bichler

Paula Richwien

Natalie Vock



# 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity (IFSO) European Chapter

15-17 May 2025 | Venice, Italy

