

# Inflammation, Adipocyte Dysfunction, and suboptimal outcome: **The Role of Neutrophile-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR)** in Patients Undergoing Laparoscopic Sleeve gastrectomy

---

**Jian Han Chen M.D.**

**Bariatric and Metabolism International Surgery Center, E-Da Hospital**

Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery , E-Da Hospital

College of Medicine, I-Shou University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan



# CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

I have

**no potential conflict of interest**

to report

## Introduction- Prediction of Suboptimal weight loss

- 20-35% patients get suboptimal response to bariatric surgery
- To identify predictors of suboptimal response and implementing subsequent supportive therapy
  - Preoperatively factors predict 1 year, even further long duration
    - High food variability, mixed with too much factors
    - Cannot apply to “Adjust” patients’ losing weight journey

# Introduction- Prediction of Suboptimal weight loss

- Retrospectively analysis : **EBWL < 37.7% at POM 3** predicted suboptimal response in POM 6 (EBWL<50%)

Sci Rep 10, 12788 (2020).

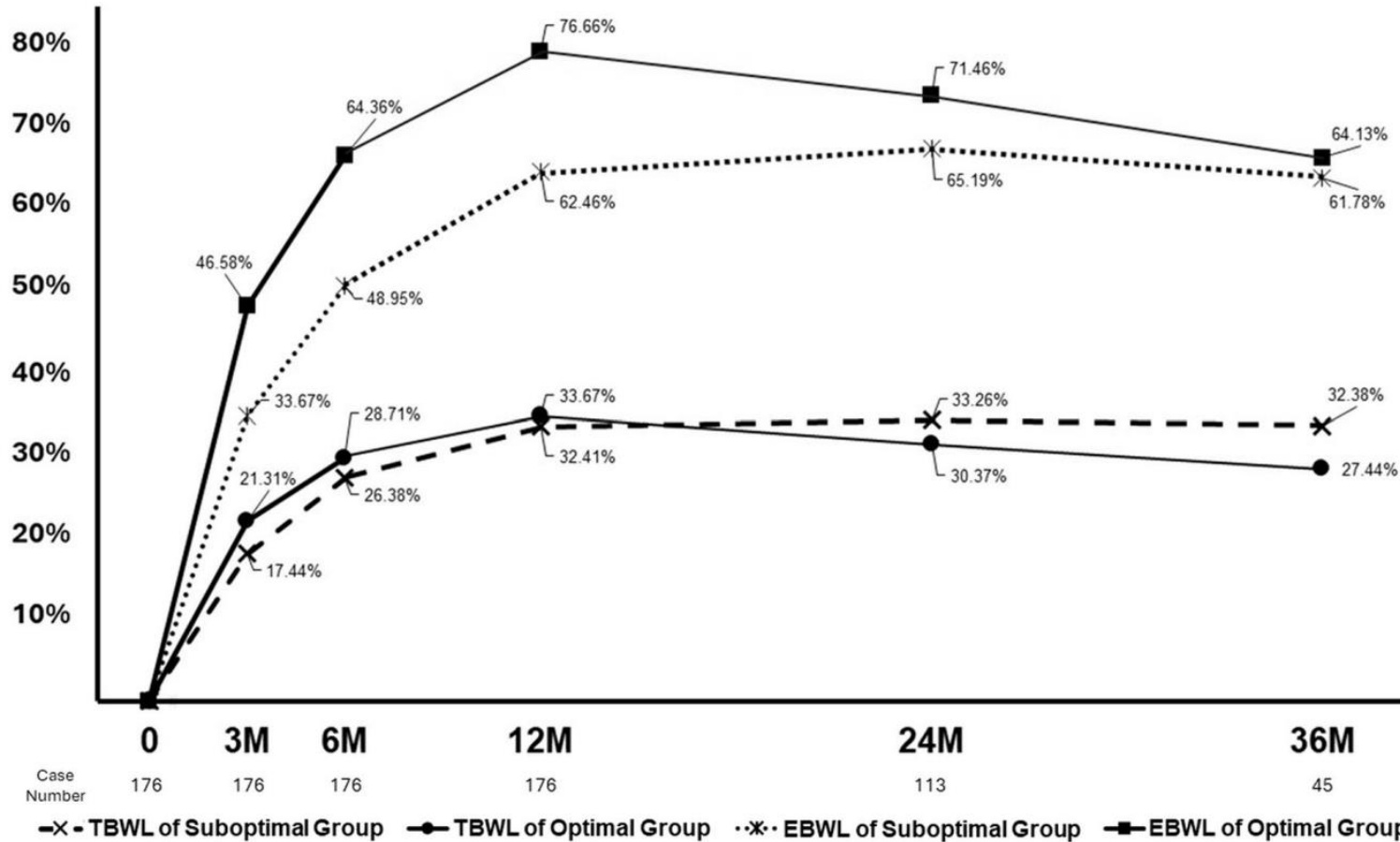
Doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-69714-4

- The proportion of optimal response increase after dietary adjustment.
- Still **52% patients** who did not achieve **EBWL of 37.7% at POM 3** have **suboptimal response** (EBWL  $\geq$  50%) by POM 6 even **after dietary adjustments**
  - The preoperative predictor of POM 3: Less bias : short period, less food variety

Obes Surg 2022;32(2):398–405.

Doi: 10.1007/s11695-021-05776-1

# Introduction- POM3 did predict Mid-term (POY2) effect



- POM3\_EBWL < 37.7% **significantly lower** EBWL at POM6, POM12, POM24

	EBWL_3M < 37.7%	EBWL_3M ≥ 37.7%	
EBWL Median(IQR)	N=45	N=131	P
EBWL_03M	33.67% (5.07%)	46.58% (13.05%)	<0.001*
EBWL_06M	48.95% (7.63%)	64.36% (15.60%)	<0.001*
EBWL_12M	62.46% (11.31%)	76.66% (21.49%)	<0.001*
EBWL_24M	65.19% (19.55%)	71.46% (14.44%)	0.007*

Obes Surg. 2024 Jul;34(7):2317-2328. doi: 10.1007/s11695-024-07315-0.

# Introduction- POM3 did predict Mid-term (POY2) effect

Independent variable	Univariant analysis		Multivariant analysis		
	OR	p	Adjust OR	95% CI	p
Age	1.005	0.739			
Gender	1.030	0.973			0.011*
Preoperative BMI	1.011	0.001*			0.001*
Diabetes	0.753	0.371			
Hypertension	1.087	0.811			
Hyperlipidemia	1.629	0.172	2.391	(0.966–5.920)	0.060
TDQ	1.006	0.924			
CHQ	1.006	0.924			
HbA1C	1.019	0.865			
HOMA_IR	0.991	0.463			
TG	1.000	0.744			
HDL-C	1.020	0.211			
LDL-C	1.006	0.257			
<b>NLR ≥ 2.36</b>	<b>2.800</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>2.915</b>	<b>(1.257–6.760)</b>	<b>0.013*</b>

## Preoperative Risk factors:

Female , High Preoperative BMI

**High NLR (NLR ≥ 2.36)**

- POM3\_EBWL < 37.7% significantly lower EBWL at POM6, POM12, POM24

	EBWL_3M < 37.7%		EBWL_3M ≥ 37.7%		
EBWL Median(IQR)	N=45		N=131		P
EBWL_03M	33.67%	(5.07%)	46.58%	(13.05%)	<0.001*
EBWL_06M	48.95%	(7.63%)	64.36%	(15.60%)	<0.001*
EBWL_12M	62.46%	(11.31%)	76.66%	(21.49%)	<0.001*
EBWL_24M	65.19%	(19.55%)	71.46%	(14.44%)	0.007*

Obes Surg. 2024 Jul;34(7):2317-2328. doi: 10.1007/s11695-024-07315-0.

## Aim of study

Our study has aimed to explore the possible impact of preoperative Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (**NLR $\geq$ 2.36**), which may indicated to chronic inflammation, on gut hormone, Microbiota and adipocyte function.

# Method

- Proved by Eda Hospital IRB (EMRP58108N, EMRP22110N)
- Inclusion Criteria
  - Prospectively enrolled Adult patients (age $\geq$ 18), **BMI $\geq$ 37 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or a BMI $\geq$ 32 kg/m<sup>2</sup>** with obesity-related comorbidities
  - **Primary LSG** April 2020/10 to 2023/11.
  - Preoperative analysis, Serum storage , Stool sample , and Adipocyte tissue collection
- **73 Included patients.**
  - 2 groups: **Higher NLR (NLR $\geq$  2.36)** and **Lower group (NLR $<$ 2.36)**
  - **Propensity Score match** by Age, BMI and Gender.
  - Finally **44** patients included for further analysis.



# Result 1: No Differences Between Preoperative Gut hormone

Total Include: **44** patients

**Similar** Demographic data  
Between High NLR ( **$NLR \geq 2.36$** )  
Group and Lower Group

**Except high-selective CRP**

	NLR $\geq$ 2.36		NLR < 2.36		p
	N= 20		N= 24		
<b>Age, median (IQR) y</b>	37.84	(13.95)	33.98	(19.29)	0.944
<b>Gender</b>					
Female	10	50.00%	17	70.83%	0.218
Male	10	50.00%	7	29.17%	
<b>BMI median (IQR)</b>	41.37	(8.08)	40.34	(7.68)	0.370
<b>WC median (IQR) cm</b>	120	(32.0)	116.35	(18.2)	0.081
<b>HC median (IQR) cm</b>	124.75	(16.4)	124	(19.7)	0.577
<b>Comorbidity:</b>					
DM	10	50.00%	8	33.33%	0.359
HTN	20	100.00%	20	83.33%	0.114
Hyperlipidemia	11	55.00%	17	70.83%	0.352
<b>Laboratory data median (IQR)</b>					
HbA1C %	6.25	(1.3)	5.21	(4.49)	0.242
HOMA-IR	5.98	(7.75)	5.45	(3.55)	0.248
C-peptide ng/mL	4.44	(2.37)	4.29	(1.26)	0.981
TCH mg/dL	179	(41.5)	192.5	(50.5)	0.588
TG mg/dL	152.5	(91)	150.5	(103.3)	0.850
HDL-C mg/dL	44.0	(12.8)	46.0	(14.5)	0.364
LDL-C mg/dL	121.0	(40.3)	112.5	(59.0)	0.841
hsCRP mg/L	8.94	(14.71)	3.67	(5.19)	<b>0.030<sup>#</sup></b>

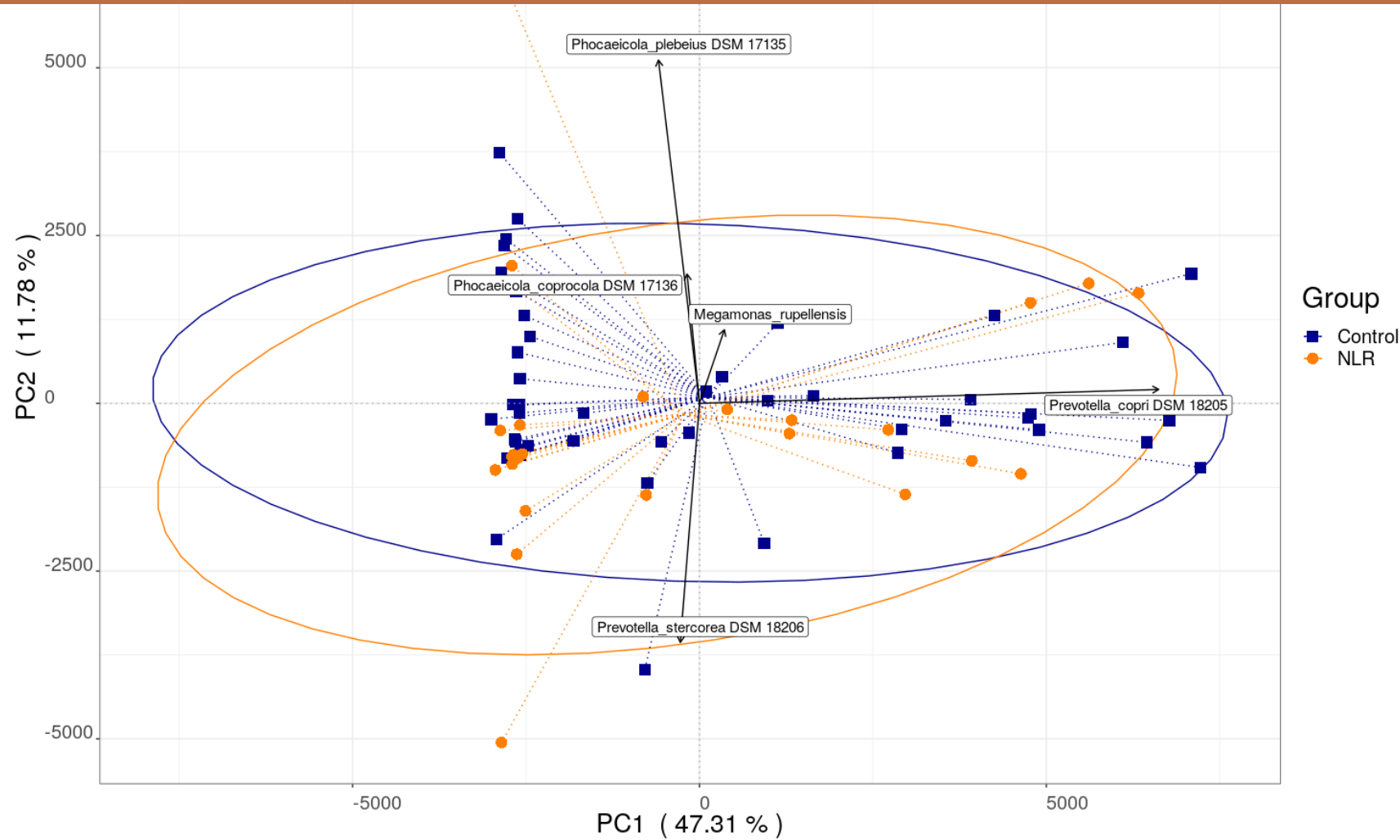
# Result 1: No Differences Between Preoperative Gut hormone

	NLR $\geq$ 2.36	NLR $<$ 2.36	p
<b>GIP Successful Detect</b>	N= 20	N= 24	
<b>GIP Median (IQR)</b>	12.11 (13.29)	7.61 (11.18)	0.220
<b>GLP-1 Successful Detect</b>	n= 20	n= 24	
<b>GLP-1 Median (IQR)</b>	128.11 (94.32)	126.41 (110.16)	0.480
<b>Ghrelin Successful Detect</b>	n= 19	n= 24	
<b>Ghrelin Median (IQR)</b>	154.30 (956.30)	184.77 (2227.7)	0.392
<b>Leptin Successful Detect</b>	n= 3	n= 7	
<b>Leptin Median (IQR)</b>	44.00 (NA)	90.65 (224.80)	0.517

# Result 2: Microbiota- Preliminary- Slightly Difference in PCA

Principal Component Analysis  
Slightly difference

Need further evaluation



## Result 3: Adipocyte function

- Randomly select 10 patients to do adipose tissue analysis.
  - Omental visceral (omVAT) and subcutaneous adipose tissue (SAT)
- Adipocyte function were detected by immunohistochemistry and western blot.
- Bands were visualized using Bio-RadChemiDoc XRS+ system.

		N= 8	
<b>Age, median (IQR) y</b>		30.52 (27.56)	
<b>Gender</b>			
	Female	7	87.50%
	Male	1	12.50%
<b>BMI median (IQR)</b>		45.45 (15.62)	
<b>WC median (IQR) cm</b>		117.5 (30.6)	
<b>HC median (IQR) cm</b>		133 (36.1)	
<b>Comorbidity:</b>			
	DM	1	12.50%
	HTN	6	75.00%
	Hyperlipidemia	4	50.00%
<b>Laboratory data median (IQR)</b>			
	HbA1C %	5.75	(0.5)
	HOMA-IR	4.11	(5.12)
	C-peptide ng/mL	3.69	(2.08)
	TCH mg/dL	187.5	(59)
	TG mg/dL	154	(228)
	HDL-C mg/dL	42.5	(28)
	LDL-C mg/dL	102	(45)
	hsCRP mg/L	3.71	(8.23)

**Successful Adipocyte western blot : 8 patients**

# Result 3: High NLR deteriorated OmVAT ATGL Function

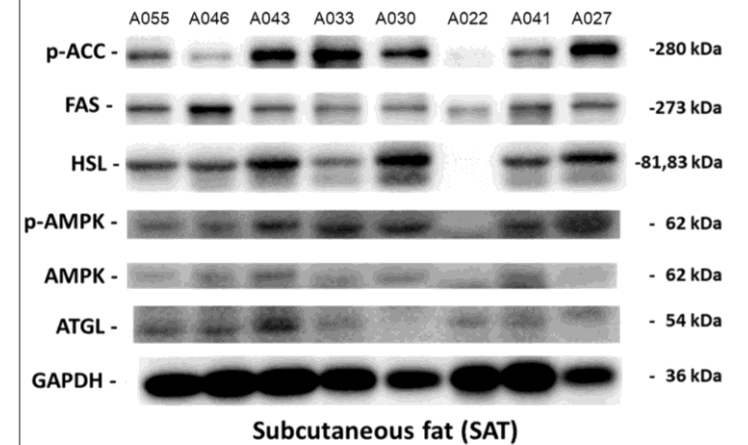
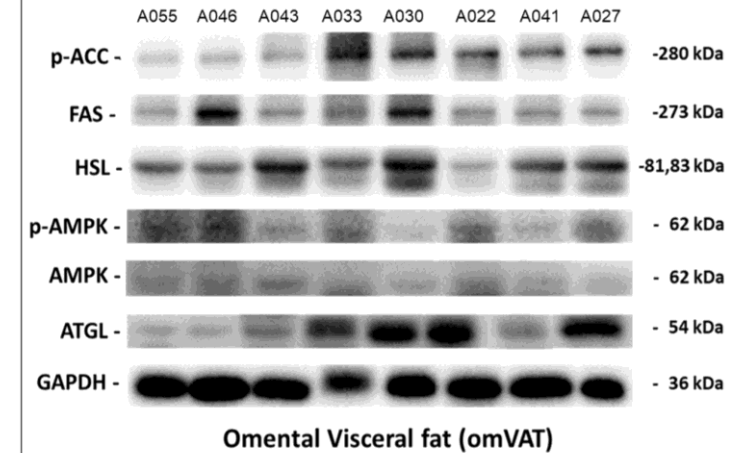
SAT	NLR $\geq$ 2.36	NLR < 2.36	p-value
	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	
FAS	0.59 $\pm$ 0.03	0.60 $\pm$ 0.33	0.968
p-ACC	0.37 $\pm$ 0.09	0.37 $\pm$ 0.35	0.378
HSL	1.16 $\pm$ 0.40	2.17 $\pm$ 1.41	0.203
p-AMPK/AMPK	0.55 $\pm$ 0.20	0.69 $\pm$ 0.15	0.150
ATGL	0.05 $\pm$ 0.02	0.09 $\pm$ 0.09	0.421
omVAT	NLR $\geq$ 2.36	NLR < 2.36	p-value
FAS	0.29 $\pm$ 0.11	0.33 $\pm$ 0.12	0.700
p-ACC	0.12 $\pm$ 0.05	0.11 $\pm$ 0.04	0.314
HSL	1.04 $\pm$ 0.23	1.73 $\pm$ 0.56	0.153
p-AMPK/AMPK	2.92 $\pm$ 2.36	1.73 $\pm$ 1.73	0.462
ATGL	0.21 $\pm$ 0.18	1.27 $\pm$ 0.81	<b>0.025*</b>

High NLR (NLR  $\geq$  2.36)

deteriorated

Omental fat (OmVAT)

ATGL (Lypolysis) Function



# Discussion

- Chronic inflammation in adipose tissue can disrupt adipocyte function.
  - impaired secretion of adipokines , increased fibrosis
  - **abnormal lipid storage and adipogenesis**



- **Expand Adipocyte** May further trigger Chronic inflammation
  - Nutrient overload → adipose tissue **hyperplasia, hypertrophy,** or dysfunction
  - Increase chronic inflammation via adipocyte death, hypoxia, and mechanical stress,

## Discussion

- Our study indicates that an elevated Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) predicts worse weight loss outcomes, **linking higher NLR with reduced lipolysis**.
  - suggests that prolonged obesity and chronic inflammation could impair lipolytic function, potentially undermining the effectiveness of bariatric surgery.
- GLP-1 was also reported to reduce lipogenic effect, increase lipolysis and reduce adiposity in human adipocytes.
  - → effective adjuvant therapy after BS in this situation.
- Further study is necessary to validate the result and clarify the interaction

## Conclusion

**High Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio** (NLR  $\geq 2.36$ ), leads poorer effect

1. May **impair** adipocyte functionality, lower adipose triglyceride lipase (**ATGL**) in omental visceral adipose tissue (**omVAT**).

→ Potential to diminish the effectiveness of LSG

2. No significant overall differences in gut hormone levels

3. Preliminary ,Difference in Microbiota

→ necessity for more in-depth research to clarify the interaction



# Thanks

**High Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio** (NLR  $\geq$  2.36), leads poorer effect

1. May **impair** adipocyte functionality, lower adipose triglyceride lipase (**ATGL**) in omental visceral adipose tissue (**omVAT**).

→ Potential to diminish the effectiveness of LSG

2. No significant overall differences in gut hormone levels

3. Preliminary ,Difference in Microbiota

→ necessity for more in-depth research to clarify the interaction