Terminology:

The Spanish Royal National Academy of Medicine says...
“Vertical Gastrectomy” is the correct term

✉ abaltasar@ coma.es. Tel. 0034-965.332.536

Key Words: Vertical gastrectomy. Gastric Tube. Gastric Sleeve. Sleeve.

Background: The medical terms we use should be grammatically correct. Often a misnomer is used at the beginning without the knowledge of physicians or surgeons. The Term of Vertical Gastrectomy was utilized at the beginning as the proper term, but today we have a controversy. The term “Sleeve Gastrectomy” was introduce incorrectly. Method. We have asked for advice of the medical lexicon experts at the Spanish Royal Academy of Medicine. Result. The correct nomination describing the procedure is Vertical Gastrectomy and Gastric Sleeve to describe the final result.

Introduction:

A frequency term is the denomination used frequently and profusely as if it is correct but does not follow the syntaxes or semantics of a language. There is a recent controversy about the use of the term “Sleeve Gastrectomy” (SG) [1, 2]

History:

“Ectomy” (from the Greek “ektome”, ablation). A suffix after the name of an organ means ablation, resection or removal of that organ (partial or total removal). So the term Gastrectomy is the resection of part or the whole stomach.

The surgical technique described as SG means the removal of 80-90% of the stomach made by the division (vertical and longitudinal) of part of the stomach involving the greater curvature. The remnant part of the stomach with the shape of a tube, Sleeve remains (it is not removed) as the lesser curvature of the organ and is less than 10-20% of the original gastric volume.

This surgical procedure was devised by bariatric surgeons using the so called Bilio-Pancreatic diversion (BPD) described by Scopinaro [3] in 1976. There are two alternative procedures that consist themselves of two parts: 1) reduction of the stomach volume on one hand and 2) The BPD itself. These two main techniques differ in the type of gastric removal: 1) Distal gastrectomy as the standard Scopinaro operation and 2) The longitudinal division leaving a sleeve shape or remnant in the lesser curvature of the stomach which it is called the Duodenal Switch (DS). The terminology has unfortunately not helped to clarify the anatomical and functional distinctions among bariatric operations.


Marceau [12] in 1998 was the first to use incorrectly the term Sleeve Gastrectomy, within the more complex two-part DS procedure, as the technique of removal of the greater curvature of the stomach leaving a remnant stomach of 150-200 c/c.

Gagner [13] described the first isolated SG done by laparoscopy (LSG) at SAGES 2000 Course in
Snowbird, UT, on February 10, 2000 and the SG was used within the context of the LDS [14], and re-sleeve [15]; and Marceau [16] maintained the same nomination. Mongol [16], Baltasar [17], and Lee [18] all of them in 2005 used the term SG in Obesity Surgery journal, Volume 15, and published the first series of LSG operations. The isolated LSG has become the fastest growing (and popular) bariatric operation in the world.

The SG term is not as the action of cutting, dividing and removal that corresponds to the greater curvature Gastrectomy itself, but describes the shape of the remnant, residual stomach. Gastric Sleeve (GS) refers to the final anatomical shape of the organ, but it does not fit the concept of the gastrectomy action. The Sleeve is the final remaining part but not the action of the operation itself.

Why this change? Why has the term had such success? The resulting change in name has been most radical as a frequency Anglicism, which are the turns of phrase or expressions that come from English, without regard for infringing upon the norms of syntax, morphology, and semantics of the language.

Sleeve-forming gastrectomy (SFG) would be a much better and adequate term as suggested in the addendum (Fig 1)

Method and results:
To clarify the correct lexicology and semantics of the nomination (gastric sleeve), we have consulted the:

A) Royal National Academy of Medicine of Spain, through the Royal Academy of Medicine of Granada, who have lexicologist experts dedicated to evaluating and fixing the suitability of the terms. Their report specifically says what we have continued to express:

2012/2/27 Dictionary [Royal National Academy of Medicine of Spain [Madrid] diccionario@ranm.es

Dear Dr. Baltasar:

The Royal National Academy of Medicine (Madrid) has received the request you made through the Royal Academy of Granada to study the terms “Sleeve Gastrectomy” and “Gastric tube”.

We have analyzed in great detail the question you have asked us and it has been incorporated into the coming editions of our dictionary on the vertical gastrectomy and synonyms and we have added new meanings such as gastric tube. Below you can find the entries.

As one can see by the articles in question, the advised RNAM term for the operation itself is vertical gastrectomy (instead of sleeve gastrectomy) and gastric tube for the remnant stomach (gastric sleeve). The synonyms such as sleeve gastrectomy, tube gastrectomy, tubular gastrectomy and vertical sleeve gastrectomy are considered frequency Anglicism, therefore their use is not recommended

vertical gastrectomía [ingl. sleeve gastrectomy]

1 Bariatric surgery procedure to obtain Weight loss consisting in a size reduction of approximately of 75% of the original stomach by the removal of the greater curvature; the edges of the division are sutured to form a sleeve or tube shaped like a banana. The operation is generally done by laparoscopy.

Syn.: greater curvature gastrectomy, longitudinal gastrectomy, sleeve gastrectomy, tubular gastrectomy, parietal gastrectomy, vertical sleeve gastrectomy and gastric tube.

Obs.: Do not confuse with -> vertical gastroplasty. [Dig./hep. Op.]

gastric tube
1 (lema) = sonda gástrica. [Dig./hep. Inst.]
2 [ingl. gastric sleeve] Banana-shaped tubular structures tailored by suturing the stomach edges after performing a vertical gastrectomy. It is used in obesity management surgery.

Sin.: gastric sleeve, gastric tube.

Obs.: It is used in a lax form as if it were a synonym of -> vertical gastrectomy. [Dig./hep. Op.]

3 [ingl. gastric tube] tubular flap tailored with a portion of the stomach during a gastroplasty; the aim is to restore the digestive continuity after esophagectomy by being united to the remnant esophagus.

Sin.: Gastric Tube. [Dig./hep. Op.]

4 [ingl.] Probe introduced within the stomach during a gastrostomy [Dig./hep. Op.]
Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We appreciate your kind contributions and send you kind regards,

Carmen Remacha y Cristina González
Diccionario de Términos Médicos
diccionario@ranm.es

Real Academia Nacional de Medicina
c/ Arrieta, 12 – 28013 – Madrid
91.547.03.18 / 19
www.ranm.es

B) According to the Brazilian resolution of the Diário oficial day 12022010, sessão 1, page 72, RESOLUÇÃO CFM No. 1.9422010 resolution 1942. 2010 Federal Council of the Medicine is a Brazilian (published on D.O.U. 12 fevereiro 2010, section I, p. 72) provides that the correct name is the Vertical Gastrectomy.

C) Leading obesity surgeons have been consulted:

1) John Melissas. IFSO-Past President. The Greek surgeon who knows what the Greek words mean; Dear Aniceto, You are absolutely right. The term Sleeve Gastrectomy is wrong. Gastric Sleeve is correct, because it is describing the remaining shape of the stomach after the resection (gastrectomy). The right term for the operation could also be "sleeve-shaping gastrectomy" or "sleeve-formatting gastrectomy". These terms are describing the appearance of the remaining stomach after the gastrectomy. In Greece, we use the longitudinal gastrectomy which is describing the direction of the gastrectomy along with the vertical (longitudinal) axis of the stomach. Yours, John

2) N. Scopinaro opinion. Past Chief Editor of Obesity Surgery: Dear Aniceto, I personally agree with you. The only reasonable objection could be that the portion of the stomach that is removed also resembles a sleeve but—much lesser volume.

3) Henry Buchwald. IFSO past President. Obesity Surgery past Chief Editor. Dear Aniceto: I have read your and Gagner's letters again and carefully. In my opinion, you are correct that "ectomy" refers, and has always referred, to that part of a organ that is removed. But a retained gastric sleeve is not what is removed.

4) Rudolf A. Weiner. Chefarzt Chirurgische Klinik / Head of Department. IFSO-European Chapter President. Dear Aniceto, you are right, completely. The right terms could be: By the way, we are using in Germany the term “Schlauchmagenbildung” “Gastric sleeve formation”

5) Mervyn Deitel, MD, FACN, CRCSC, FICS, DABS, FASMBS Editor-in-Chief Emeritus & Founding Editor: OBESITY SURGERY. Dear Aniceto, “gastrectomy” from the Greek means excision of stomach – any part. Sleeve gastrectomy is probably a misnomer and is taken to mean excision of stomach, leaving a lesser curvature sleeve. The term has come into wide general use, with thousands of papers and abstracts, and the intended meaning of the term is understood by all bariatric surgeons. It is a frequency term Mervyn

6) Richard Welbourn. Member of the BOMSS (British Obesity and Metabolic Surgical Society). Dear Dr Baltasar. You have discovered quite a conundrum! Personally I think that sleeve-forming gastrectomy or tube-forming gastrectomy might be preferable, keeping the word gastrectomy as this differentiates it from all other common bariatric operations, being the only one where tissue is removed.

7) Alberic Fiennes alberic@agtwf.co.uk President of the BOMSS. Dear Dr. Baltasar, I completely agree in principle that Sleeve Gastrectomy is a wrong term, as an uninstructed language student would think it means an operation to remove a sleeve-shaped piece of stomach. I guess IFSO (big IFSO) has a mechanism for re-classifying and publishing this? I would strongly support being tidy and accurate. I think "Sleeve-Forming Gastrectomy" (SFG or LSGF) has the virtue of saying exactly what it is.... London. Alberic Fiennes

Conclusion

We believe, in accordance with the opinion of lexicon and term experts, Sleeve gastrectomy is a misnomer since it does not describe the procedure of the removed part but the remaining part instead. Vertical gastrectomy, sleeve-forming gastrectomy, tube-forming gastrectomy are correct terms to describe well the procedure and Gastric Sleeve (GS) is also correct to describe the end-result on the organ.

References:


12) Gagner M Primera operación de Sleeve informada. SAGES 2000 meeting at Course at Snowbird, UTAH. 2000.02.10.


18) Sang Moon Han, MD; Won Woo Kim, MD, PhD; Ji Hyun Oh, RD. Results of Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy (LSG) at 1 Year in Morbidly Obese Korean Patients. Obesity Surgery, 15, 1469-1475.