Obesity or Bariatric (from the Greek Barı = Weight and Iatrein= Management) Surgery is in the increase in all the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries due to the high incidence of this disease in our populations. It seems that being multi-factorial as the changing life-style (fast and prepared foods, eating out, women lib from the house work and cooking due to out of the house work, etc.) leading to what is being described as the pandemic of XX and XXI century in many countries, and this condition previously affecting poor people in rich countries and rich people in poor countries, affects more and more to a population of 1.7 obese out of 7 billion population in the world today.

Why surgeons are treating Obesity? This is a matter of controversy. It is true, few of any times in the history of medicine conceptually a healthy organ/s has been treated so aggressively, as disease, more so if is not the cause of the disease itself. Obviously such a healthy organ is not going to be better of with any type of operation, not matter how mild it may be.

But, the consequences (social, personal, economic, etc.) of obesity and health wise lead the patient to suffer severe comorbidities (diabetes, High blood pressure, fat metabolism and other organs) that shorten their lives.

Are we going to operate all the obese people? Never an environmental problem is solved by a surgical solution! Surgery may resolve only individual problems, but only of those patients interested who know and understand that surgery does not cure obesity but it is the best tool we have (as crutches in a amputated) to make him able to walk.

More than 400.000 operations are done in the world yearly, half of them in the USA and the rate is increasing fast in all the world. Dr. Victor Henrikson [1] in Sweden did the first Bariatric operation in 1952. Dr. Kremen and Linner, Dr. Mason y Varco & Buchwald started in 1954 at the University of Minneapolis the bypass yeyunoileal bypass (JIB). Payne [2] did these operations in the 1960’s.

El Dr. Rafael Alvarez-Cordero did the first JIB in México City in 1968. Dr. Salomao Chaib did the same in Brasil in 1974 and it was follow by Dr. Arthur Garrido with other surgeons to fund the SBCB (Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia de la Obesidade). Dr. A. Baltasar did the first Gastric bypass in 1977, Lap gastric band in 1993, duodenal switch in 1994, Lap gastric bypass 1997, Lap duodenal switch in 2000 and Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy in 2002 in España.

Laparoscopy has lead to an extraordinary advance in this field. Paiva of Minas Gerais, Brazil did the first world bilo-pancreatic diversion and de Paula the first Lap duodenal switch in Brazil.

Members “portuñoil” speaking world have organized 4 IFSO (International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity)World meetings in Cancun - México, Brazil, Salamanca y Buenos Aires. They created the need for Regional Chapters in IFSO that lead IFSO Latino Chapter which that is holding now its IV Congress in Cartagena de Indies, after the ones in Cancun, Iguazu and Viña del Mar. Four of our members have been IFSO Presidents (Garrido, Baltasar and Alvarez-Cordero Torres) and the first 3 are “IFSO Life members”.

The quality of surgery is measured by the mortality and in Spain in 2006 was 0.24% (7 de 2896 patients), exactly the same as Dr E. Mason in IBRS informed in the USA 0.24% in 2008 (93 cases en 38.501 operations). Others Centers of Excellence which have a positive impact in the USA are being created in several countries such as Brazil and in the EC.

Two Brazilian Centers of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery, the first in Latin America, have won accreditation by the International Centers of Excellence (ICE): 1) Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz and 2) Hospital dos Fornecedores de Cana de Piracicaba. Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz in São Paulo, Brazil, and Dr. Carlos Schiavon, Luiz Berti, Arthur Garrido and Ricardo Cohen and Hospital dos Fornecedores de Cana by Dr. Irineu Rasera Jr. y his team with Elisabete Cristina Shiraga as Bariatric Coordinator of the Hospital dos Fornecedores de Cana de Piracicaba and Ex Secretaria de IFSO.

Four Spanish centers have also been credited by the European body as Centers of Excellence (no other country has more than two at this time).

Our countries are very active publishing in Obesity Surgery (see figures 1, 2 y 3) as in SOARD (the ASMBS journal), but with so many countries in Europe, previously the West and now the East, Asia and the Arab world working the bariatric literature space is getting narrower.
New field are developed in these late years. “Metabolic” surgery of the diabetes (where Brazil is the leader) has made our societies to include this in our names, laparoscopy, SILS, NOTES, and the great development in technology including endoscopy ask from us new challenges.

As Rafael Álvarez Cordero says we are “crazies” as a proverb “At the beginning they think “they are crazy”, then “that is forbidden”, then “only in a few and selected cases”, then “it is nothing new” and finally “I can do it better”.

BMI is an open access journal, with a cost free seal. We have already requested entry into the search ISSN, DOI, Scielo (de Sao Paulo), etc. But BMI needs a manuscripts in any of the 3 languages (Portuguese, Spanish and English), that will have reviewers by pairs and a wide selection multinational committee to which more and more portuñol will cooperate.

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