Gastric Bypass Surgery for Morbid Obesity: Bibliography and Citation Analysis

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With Surgeon's Commentary By
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Two selected bibliographies are presented on the controversial gastric bypass procedure for morbid obesity: Current articles retrieved from the MEDLINE database and articles cited at least five times in the references of the current list.

Twelve years have passed since gastric bypass as a treatment for morbid obesity was first described by Mason and Ito (1967). The procedure remains highly controversial. Physicians considering referral of patients for this procedure and surgeons considering its performance should be quite familiar with the reported experience.

Most of the 31 articles in this bibliography were taken directly from the online retrieval system, MEDLINE. (The current data base contains entries from January 1, 1977, through August 30, 1979.) The first article was selected because it is the most current review of the procedure. The second article is the most recent documentation by a state medical journal. With five exceptions, all articles appeared in the surgery literature. English language articles which reviewed series of cases are included, and the number of references in each article has been recorded. Several articles represent series from the same institution, and seven of the 22 current articles are from Iowa City.

The last nine articles appear in the literature from 1967 to 1975 and were chosen by comparing the reference lists of the first 22. All were cited at least five times by their peers. Edward E. Mason, MD, original reporter of the gastric bypass surgery for obesity (along with Chikashi Ito) appears as an author in six of the nine cited articles, as well as in 6 of the 22 MEDLINE entries. Again, article #1 is his most recent reporting and article #8 summarizes ten-years' experience including the follow-up of 625 patients; he replies to unusual cases in #4.

Finally, the cited articles were checked against DIALOG's online, Science Citation Index (Files 34 and 94)** to see how many times each article was cited from 1974 to pres-

**Records for SCISEARCH are in two files: 94 contains records from 1974-1977, and 34 contains current citations from 1978 to present, resulting in approximately 2,060,000 citations; files are updated monthly.
ent — not just in the surgery journals — but in the entire literature. Interestingly enough, Mason is the primary author of both the first and last articles. Likewise, the last article in this bibliography is the first report of the experimental results of gastric bypass as a possible treatment for either acid-peptic ulcer disease or obesity (#31). This article by Mason and Ito (1967) has been cited in the literature 12 times during the past eleven years. The three most heavily cited articles are #26 (JH Payne, 1973, cited 111 times); #30 (JH Payne, 1969, cited 157 times); and #28 (HW Scott, 1971, cited 76 times).

Although articles #26 and #30 are not specified on the gastric bypass procedure, they are important to include because they are so highly cited. Twelve of the 31 documents (with an asterisk) include discussions.

A Gastric Bypass Registry is maintained in Iowa City, Iowa, for surgeons interested in reporting their follow-up of patients (#8).

Surgeon's Commentary: The medical management of morbid obesity is frequently disappointing. The first widely-performed surgical procedures aimed at treating morbid obesity were various types of jejunoileal bypass. Although these operations are still performed, the demonstrated morbidity and mortality is high and many surgeons have discontinued using this form of therapy. Gastric bypass and, more recently, gastric partitioning have been described as useful procedures with fewer serious complications than jejunoileal bypass. Unfortunately, morbidly obese patients often desperately seek surgical treatment and seem willing to accept almost any risk in doing so. Certainly, the surgeon willing to perform such procedures should select the safest operation available. This article should be helpful in making that decision.

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CURRENT MEDLINE ARTICLES
(1977-1979)


CITED REFERENCES
(1967-1975)


27. Printen KD, Mason EE: Gastric surgery for the relief of morbid obesity, Arch Surg 110:12-431, April 1975. 9 Ref.


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