



## Timing of Gestation After Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy (LSG): Does it Influence Obstetrical and Neonatal Outcomes of Pregnancies?

Seda Sancak<sup>1</sup> · Özgen Çeler<sup>1</sup> · Elif Çırak<sup>2</sup> · Aziz Bora Karip<sup>3</sup> · M. Tumiçin Aydın<sup>3</sup> · Nuriye Esenbulut<sup>3</sup> · M. Mahir Fersahoğlu<sup>3</sup> · Hasan Altun<sup>3,4</sup> · Kemal Memişoğlu<sup>3</sup>

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To the Editor,

I would like to thank Rottenstreich et al. due to contribution to our study.

A retrospective, observational study was conducted to evaluate the maternal and fetal health outcomes of pregnancies in women who had previously undergone LSG between 2012 and 2017 at the University of Health Sciences, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Training and Research Hospital. Institutional review board approval was obtained. Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study. Any identifying information does not apply in the article.

The finding of our study was that patients who conceived within the first postoperative 18 months (early group) had comparable short-term perinatal outcomes compared to patients who conceived after the 18 months (late group). The interval between laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) and conception did not have an effect on maternal or neonatal health outcomes.

Patients who undergo bariatric surgery are at risk for numerous nutritional deficiencies. An increased risk of anemia due to iron or B12 deficiency is common and these deficiencies could adversely affect pregnancy outcomes [1, 2]. These findings show the importance of regular monitoring and compliance with long-term nutritional supplement plans after bariatric surgery.

Our study design is retrospective. We collected the results hospital admissions, outpatient clinic follow-up visits, labor, and delivery charts. Unfortunately, we could not find all the results of iron and ferritin and we did not have data relevant to nutritional status.

Therefore, we specified in our study in conclusion that “This study had some limitations, due to its retrospective nature- namely the impossibility of evaluating certain nutritional deficits, such as folic acid and magnesium, and the fact that it was not possible to obtain all the parameters of all the pregnant women and their newborns.”

✉ Seda Sancak  
drsedasancak@gmail.com

Özgen Çeler  
ozgenceler1981@gmail.com

Elif Çırak  
cirakelif@hotmail.com

Aziz Bora Karip  
borakarip@gmail.com

M. Tumiçin Aydın  
mtimucina@gmail.com

Nuriye Esenbulut  
nuriyeesenbulut@hotmail.com

M. Mahir Fersahoğlu  
fersahoglu@yahoo.com

Hasan Altun  
haltun@hotmail.com.tr

Kemal Memişoğlu  
cerah@gmail.com

- <sup>1</sup> Fatih Sultan Mehmet Education and Research Hospital, Endocrinology and Metabolism Disorders, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Health Sciences, Atasehir, 34752 Istanbul, Turkey
- <sup>2</sup> Fatih Sultan Mehmet Education and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Health Sciences, Atasehir, İstanbul, Turkey
- <sup>3</sup> General Surgery Clinic Fatih, Sultan Mehmet Education and Research Hospital, University of Health Sciences, Atasehir, Istanbul, Turkey
- <sup>4</sup> General Surgery Clinic, Liv Hospital, Ulus, Istanbul, Turkey

**Compliance with Ethical Standards** To conduct the study, all procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. Our study was retrospective and therefore, for this type of study, formal consent is not required.

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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