

P79. Obesity: physiologic changes and challenges during laparoscopy

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Introduction:

There is great interest in performing minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, rather than traditional open surgery, in obese women, with the hope of reducing complications and accelerating recovery. This is of particular importance in patients who are morbidly obese or super obese. However, this population often presents a unique set of challenges to the surgeon because they have more severe comorbidities and a greater risk of perioperative complications than do their thinner counterparts. The purpose of this report was to describe the evidence for the benefits of laparoscopic surgery in obese patients, and to explore surgical techniques that will enable surgeons to perform laparoscopy successfully in obese patients.

Study design

Retrospective study performed during 1 year in a University Centre including gynecological surgeries performed in obese patients. We compared 2 groups: group 1: 10 obese patients with open surgery. group 2: 4 obese patients with laparoscopic surgery

Results

Obese patients who undergo laparoscopy have shorter hospital stays [2 days Vs 10 days], less postoperative pain, and fewer wound infections [0% Vs 70%] when compared with obese patients who undergo laparotomy. Laparoscopy patients also have fewer postoperative ileus and fevers [0% Vs 20%].

Conclusion

With thorough preparation and careful preoperative evaluation, laparoscopy can be performed safely and is the preferred surgical method in obese patients.

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