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Commentary: The impact of bariatric and metabolic surgery on cancer development

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A Commentary on
The impact of bariatric and metabolic surgery on cancer development

by Lunger F, Aeschbacher P, Nett PC, Peros G. Front Surg. (2022). 9:918272. doi: 10.3389/fsurg.2022.918272

Obesity is associated with increased cancer risk and bariatric surgery -leading to substantial, sustainable weight loss -has repeatedly been found to be associated with a reduced risk. To increase the understanding of this expanding research field review articles that summarize results from different studies are needed. One such review is the recent publication from Lunger et al. (1), in which pre- and post-interventional aspects of bariatric and metabolic surgery and its potential benefit on cancer development in patients with obesity is reviewed and discussed. We read this review with great interest, but as representatives of the Swedish Obese Subjects (SOS) study group we need to point out that the statement regarding our previously published report specifically analyzing incidence of colorectal cancer is incorrect (2).

In the review article by Lunger et al. it is stated that our study (2) demonstrates an increased risk of colorectal cancer with bariatric surgery and also that the risk increased steadily with time following surgery. In contrast, we found no evidence that colorectal cancer is affected by bariatric surgery (hazard ratio$_{unadj}$ with surgery = 0.79 (95% CI: 0.55–1.12; $p = 0.183$). In addition, when analyzing rectal cancer events separately- we found a decreased risk of rectal cancer with surgery (HR$_{unadj}$ = 0.56; 95% CI: 0.32–0.99; $p = 0.045$), while the risk of colon cancer was unchanged.

Author contributions

The authors had full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data

analysis. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher's note

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