

## Letter to the Editor



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### Conflict of Interest

The author has any conflict of interest.

# Letter to the Editor Regarding “Abdominal Drains After Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy: Should They Be Used?”

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► See the article “Abdominal Drains After Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy: Should They Be Used?”  
in volume 13 on page 27.

We read with great appreciation the study by Aragone et al. [1], in which they concluded that routine drain use in laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) is ineffective in the early detection of complications. Similarly, we believe that the use of drains does not provide the expected benefit. Moreover, we found it particularly interesting that in none of the patients with gastric staple line leak (GSSL), the drain proved to be a reliable guide. However, I would like to address a few points that were not covered in this study.

Firstly, the surgical procedure did not specify whether omentopexy was performed on the gastric staple line, nor the relationship between the drain and the omentum if omentopexy was applied. The omentum is highly vascularized and can absorb bleeding and leakage. Additionally, it can act as a barrier, potentially containing leaks and bleeding [2]. Furthermore, a meta-analysis has shown that omentopexy reduces the incidence of GSSL [3]. Therefore, the lack of mention of omentopexy in the surgical technique may introduce bias.

Secondly, measuring amylase levels from the drain could be a useful technique. In the study by Romano et al. [4], it was demonstrated that drain amylase had 83% sensitivity and 100% specificity in predicting GSSL. Their study found that drain amylase predicted all leakage.

In conclusion, I extend my gratitude to Aragone and colleagues for this valuable study. I believe that suturing the omental flap and checking for drain amylase levels in addition to the methylene blue leak test would be beneficial. Despite all these considerations, I agree with the authors' perspective that normal drain appearance does not exclude complications, and drains should not be entirely relied upon.

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