



**XXVI  
IFSO WORLD  
CONGRESS**  
OF BARIATRIC  
& METABOLIC SURGERY



**NAPLES, ITALY**  
AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Congress President: Prof. Luigi Angrisani



# Intraoperative criteria to proceed to Hiatal Hernia Repair during bariatric procedures

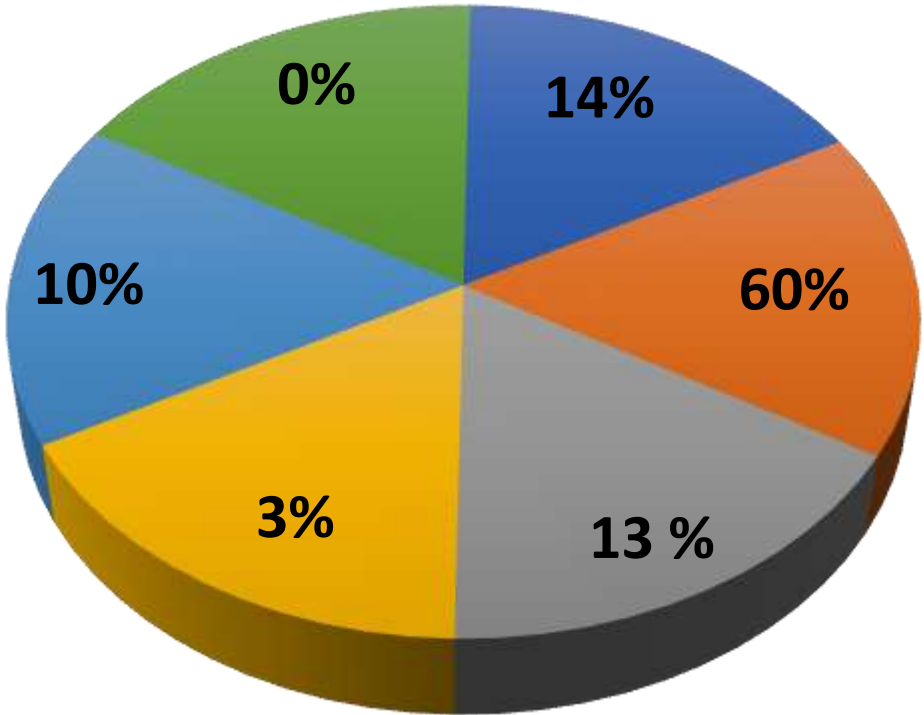
## Gianfranco Silecchia



I have no potential conflict of interest to report



CASE MIX DISCLOSURE



- RYGB
- SG
- OAGB
- DS/SADI-S
- REVISIONAL
- ENDOSCOPIC

# *Background*

## *Obese / Bariatric surgery and GERD / HH*

SAGES 2013



### **Repair of hiatal hernia during bariatric operations**

#### Guideline 6

- During operations for Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and the placement of adjustable gastric bands, all detected hiatal hernias should be repaired (**+++**, **weak**)

Original article

## International Sleeve Gastrectomy Expert Panel Consensus Statement: best practice guidelines based on experience of >12,000 cases

Raul J. Rosenthal, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.S.M.B.S.\*, for the International Sleeve Gastrectomy Expert Panel

Received October 26, 2011; accepted October 27, 2011

Special considerations	Hiatal hernia	Aggressive identification of hiatal hernia intraoperatively is appropriate	83
		Diaphragmatic defect should be closed after sleeve procedure is completed	71
	Postoperative diet	Patients should not begin eating solid food until $\geq 2$ wk postoperatively	100

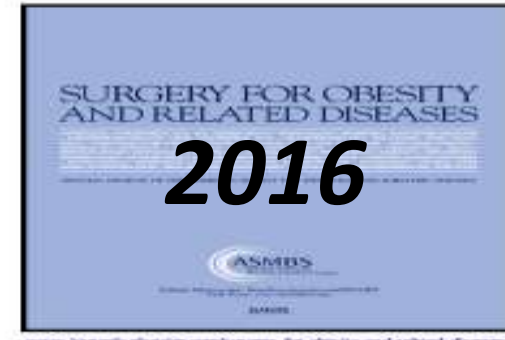
**Hiatal hernias should be repaired, if found (84%)**

**The presence of a hiatal hernia is not a contraindication to perform sleeves (88%) is a contraindication for 46 % of general bariatric surgeon**

### Author's Accepted Manuscript

Fifth International Consensus Conference: Current Status of Sleeve Gastrectomy

Michel Gagner MD, FRCSC, FACS, FASMBS, Colleen Hutchinson MA, Raul Rosenthal MD, FACS, FASMBS



Obesity Surgery (2020) 30:3695–3705  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11695-020-04749-0>



2020



NAPOLI 2023

**HH should be looked for and repaired during LSG, even in asymptomatic patients and those without endoscopic findings for GERD. 67% consensus for the necessity of concomitant small HH repair 80% consensus in cases of large HH.**

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Gastroesophageal Reflux and Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy: Results of the First International Consensus Conference

Ahmad Assalia<sup>1</sup> • Michel Gagner<sup>2,3</sup> • Marius Nedelcu<sup>4,5</sup> • Almino C. Ramos<sup>6</sup> • David Nocca<sup>7</sup>

Graphical abstract

### Repairing Small Type 1 Hiatal Hernias at the Time of RYGB is Not Necessary to Achieve Resolution of Reflux Symptoms



### SELECTION CRITERIA

small type I HH diagnosed intraop. Fat pad and cardias below the diaphragm with no evidence of retraction into the mediastinum

Primary surgery  
NO Barrett  
NO Esophagitis  
NO preop PPI

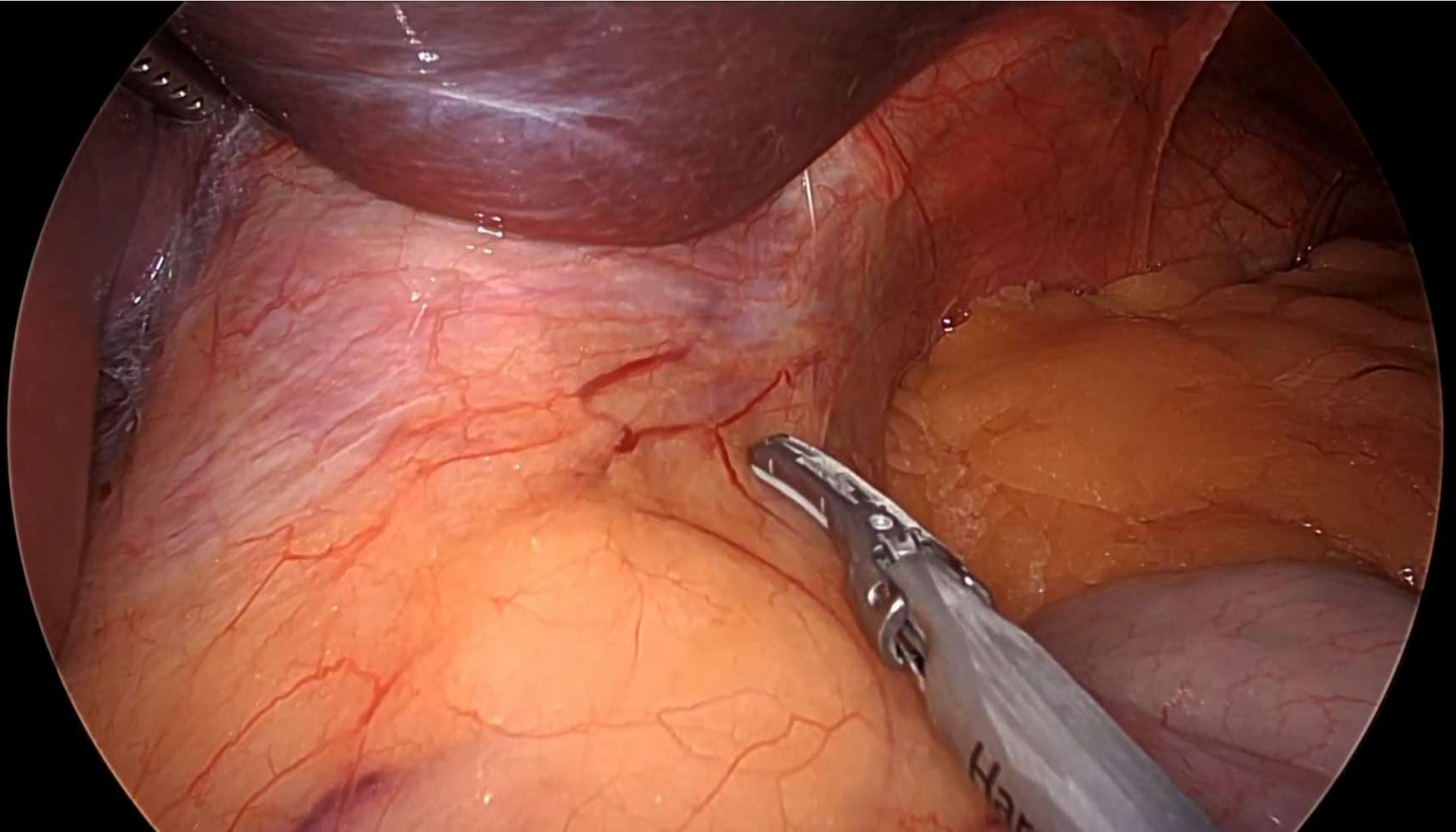
### PRIMARY OUTCOME

GERD score at 12 months  
n= 241 pts  
HH repair (n=100 pts)  
NO HH repair (n=141 pts)

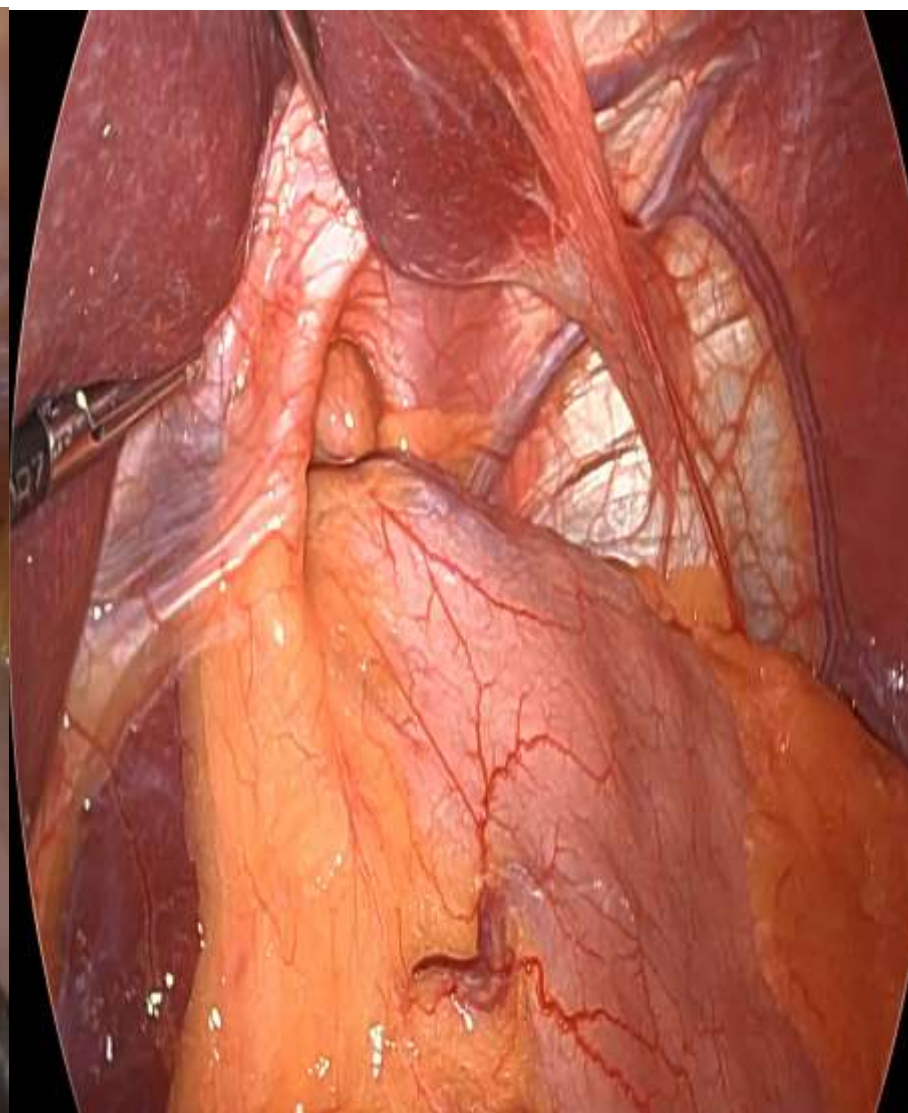
Ashley Khouri, BS; Paige Martinez, MS; Jennwood Chen, MD; Eric Volckmann, MD; Ellen Morrow, MD, MS; Anna Ibele, MD



**WHAT 'S regular anatomy???**



# NO DISCUSSION !



Courtesy of . L. Angrisani

# INTRAOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS OF HH IS THE GOLD STANDARD IN BARIATRIC POPULATION

**Table 5** Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value of UGIS and EGD in preoperative diagnosis of hiatus hernia as compared to operative findings

Parameters	UGIS	EGD	Both tests*
Sensitivity %	30.2	47.4	60.5
Specificity %	97.5	81.4	77.8
PPV %	61.5	30	31.9
NPV %	91.3	90.2	92
FN rate %	69.8	52.6	39.5
FP rate %	2.5	18.6	22.2

**Table 6** Prevalence and intra-operative diagnosis of hiatal hernia among sleeve gastrectomy and Roux-en-Y gastric bypass groups

	LSG N=283 (%)	LRYGB N=180 (%)	Total N=463 (%)	P value*
Hiatal hernia present at surgery	32 (11.3)	21 (11.7)	53 (11.4)	0.906
Hiatal hernia absent at surgery	251 (88.7)	159 (88.3)	410 (88.6)	
HH diagnosed in preoperative UGIS	7 (2.5)	19 (11)	26 (5.8)	0.0001
No HH seen in preoperative UGIS	271 (97.5)	153 (89)	424 (94.2)	
HH diagnosed in preoperative EGD	14 (12.4)	46 (30.5)	60 (22.7)	0.001
No HH seen in preoperative EGD	99 (87.6)	105 (69.5)	204 (77.3)	
HH diagnosed in either or both EGD and UGIS	17 (15.2)	55 (37.4)	72 (27.8) *	0.0001
No HH in both EGD and UGIS (when both tests done)	95 (84.8)	92 (62.6)	187 (72.2)	
HH among patients with heartburn found during operation	3 (12.5)	11 (27.5)	14 (21.9)	0.163
HH among patients with heartburn absent during the operation	21 (87.5)	29 (72.5)	50 (78.1)	
HH among patients with previous bariatric surgery found at operation	1 (20)	9 (24.3)	10 (23.8)	0.833
HH among patients with previous bariatric surgery absent at operation	4 (80)	28 (75.7)	32 (76.2)	

HH, hiatal hernia; EGD, esophagogastroduodenoscopy; UGIS, upper gastrointestinal series; LSG, laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy; LRYGB, laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass

\*LSG compared to RYGB



**LIMIT OF THE STUDY: retrospective, monocentric, no-routine EGD**

# PREVALENCE OF CONCOMITANT HH REPAIR BASED ON INTRAOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT

MBSAQIP database			
Primary *	17.9% (pts 130.722)	SLEEVE GASTRECTOMY 21%	RYGB 10.9%
Revisional**	24.1% (pts 12.788)	SG to RYGB	31.1%

Personal experience <b>13%</b>	Primary surgery <b>10%</b>	Revisional surgery <b>3%</b>
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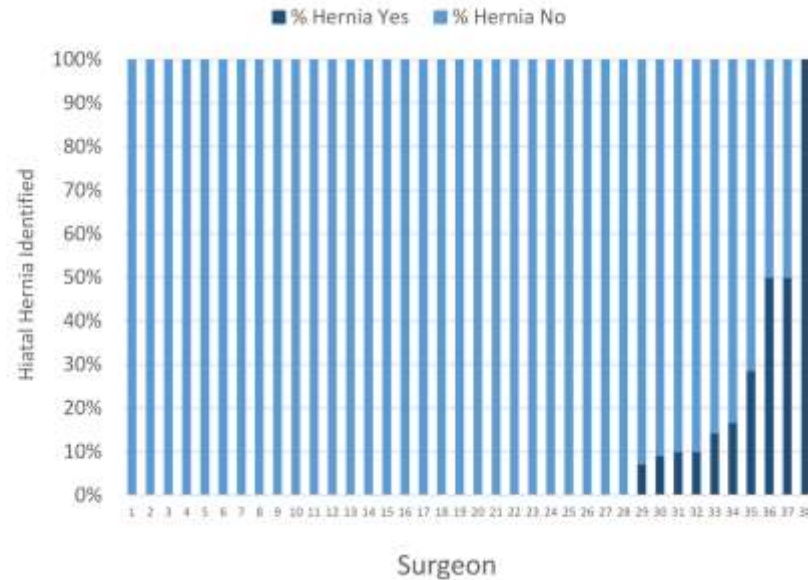


\*Obesity Surgery 2019, S. Docimo Jr et al  
 \*\* Obesity Surgery 2023 A .Friedman et al  
 \*\*\* Minerva Surgery 2021 Boru, Silecchia et al

# NO STANDARD CRITERIA FOR INTRAOP DIAGNOSIS OF HH

- 33 video primary LSG non HH diagnosed
- 38 surgeons (similar profile)
- 26% of diagnosis of HH to be repaired

Fig. 1 Variation in surgeon perception of hiatal hernia during video review of 33 laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy procedures



Surgical Endoscopy (2021) 35:2537–2542  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00464-020-07668-4>



## In the eye of the beholder: surgeon variation in intra-operative perceptions of hiatal hernia and reflux outcomes after sleeve gastrectomy

Anne P. Ehlers<sup>1,2</sup> · Karan Chhabra<sup>2,3,4</sup> · Jyothi R. Thumma<sup>2</sup> · Justin B. Dimick<sup>1,2</sup> · Oliver Varban<sup>1</sup>



**Conclusion** Surgeons who identified hiatal hernias during video review had a higher rate of concurrent hiatal hernia repairs in their practice. This was not associated with improved patient-reported reflux symptoms after LSG. Standardizing identification and management of hiatal hernias during bariatric surgery may help improve reflux outcomes post-operatively.

Intraoperative criteria to proceed to HH repair

## CONCERNS

- 1.Type of procedure
- 2.Primary/revisional
- 3.Recurrent HH
- 4.Patients characteristics
- 5.INTRAOPERATORY FINDINGS

# PROPOSED INTRAOPERATIVE STEPS: **DON'T MISS THE HIATAL DEFECTS**

**Check the Hiatus**

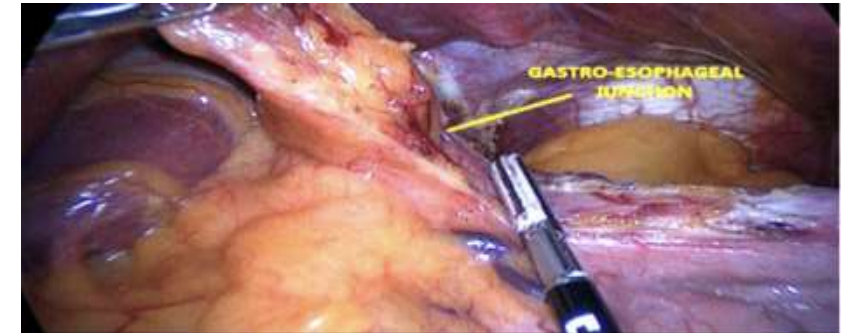
**Remove the Belsey Fat in any case**

**Identify the Hiss angle**

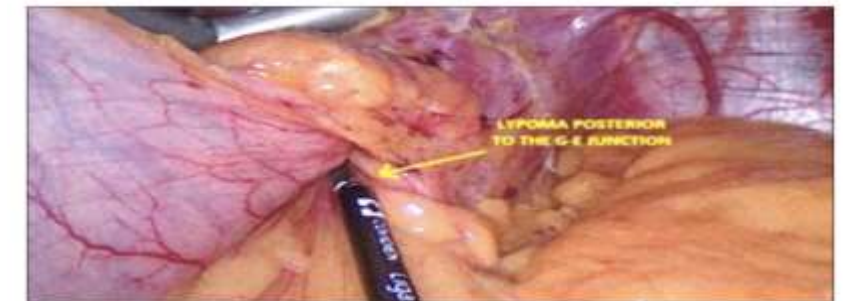
**Fundus dissection and exposition of left pillar**  
(sleeve gastrectomy, revisional)

**Check para-esophageal posterior lipoma**

**Check the position of EGJ at the end of the procedure**  
(gastric pouch trans-hiatal migration)

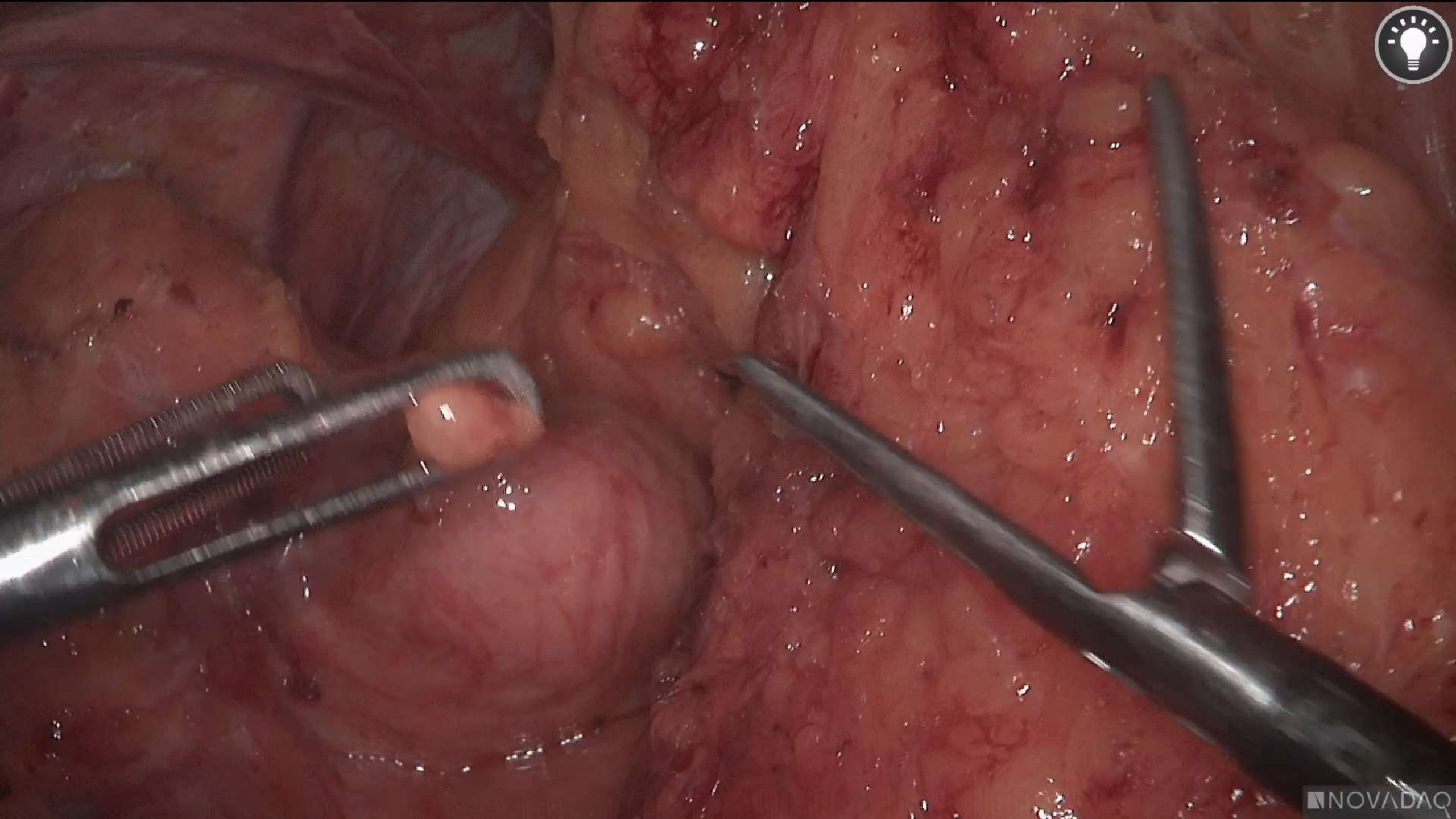


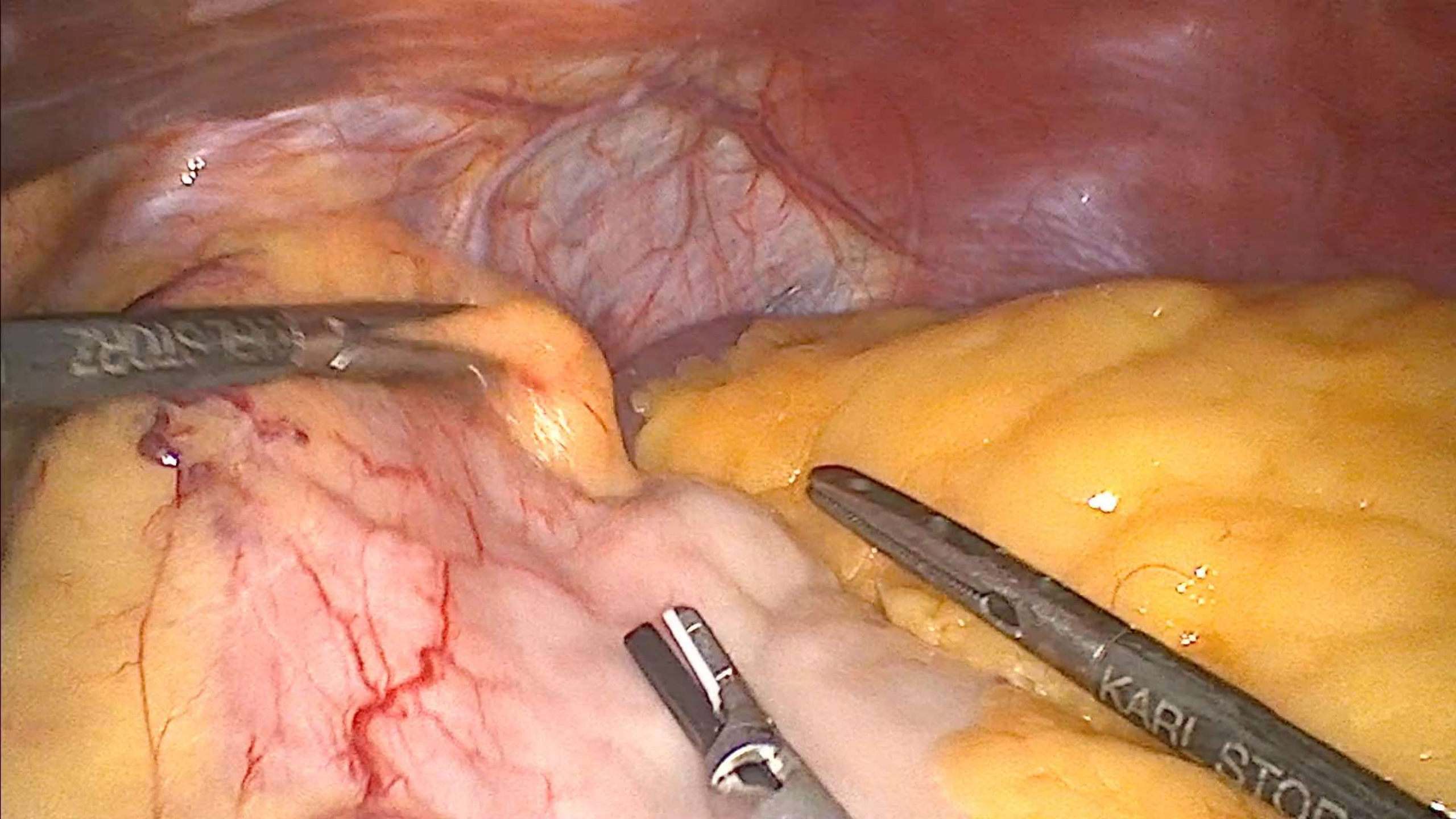
No identification of the abdominal esophagus after the fat pad's mobilization



**Figure 8.** Para-esophageal lipoma localized posteriorly to the gastro-esophageal junction

From I. Hutopila , C. Copaescu Chirurgia 2019





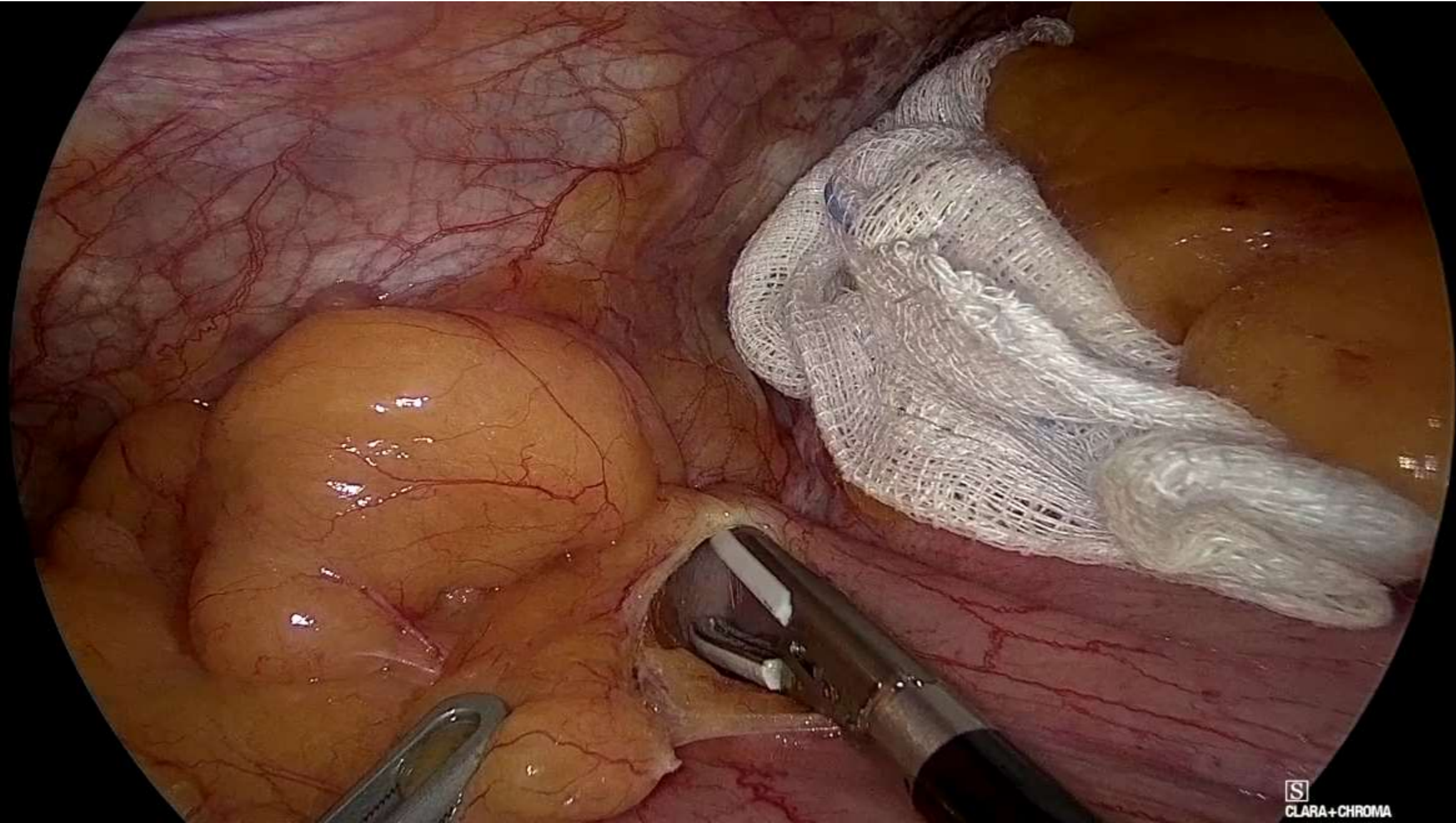
# EXPLORING THE HIATUS FOR EVENTUAL DEFECTS TO BE REPAIRED

≠

## COMPLETE DISSECTION OF HSA



**PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!!!**

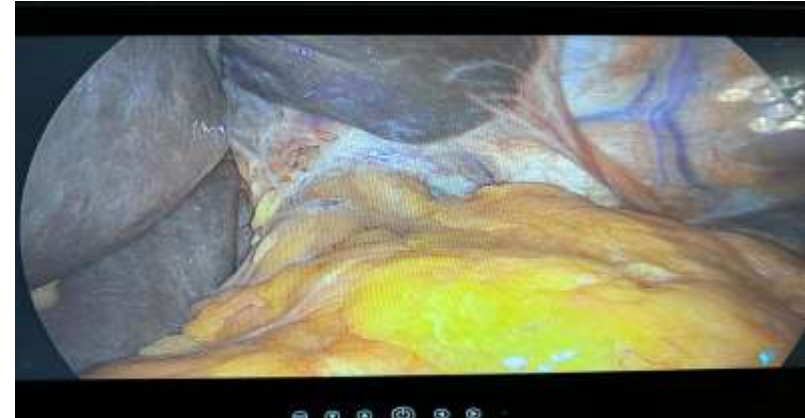


## THE REAL LIFE

In absence of standard criteria when and how to proceed to concomitant HHR  
the decision is up to the surgeon's experience.

**Consider the RISK of overtreatment!**

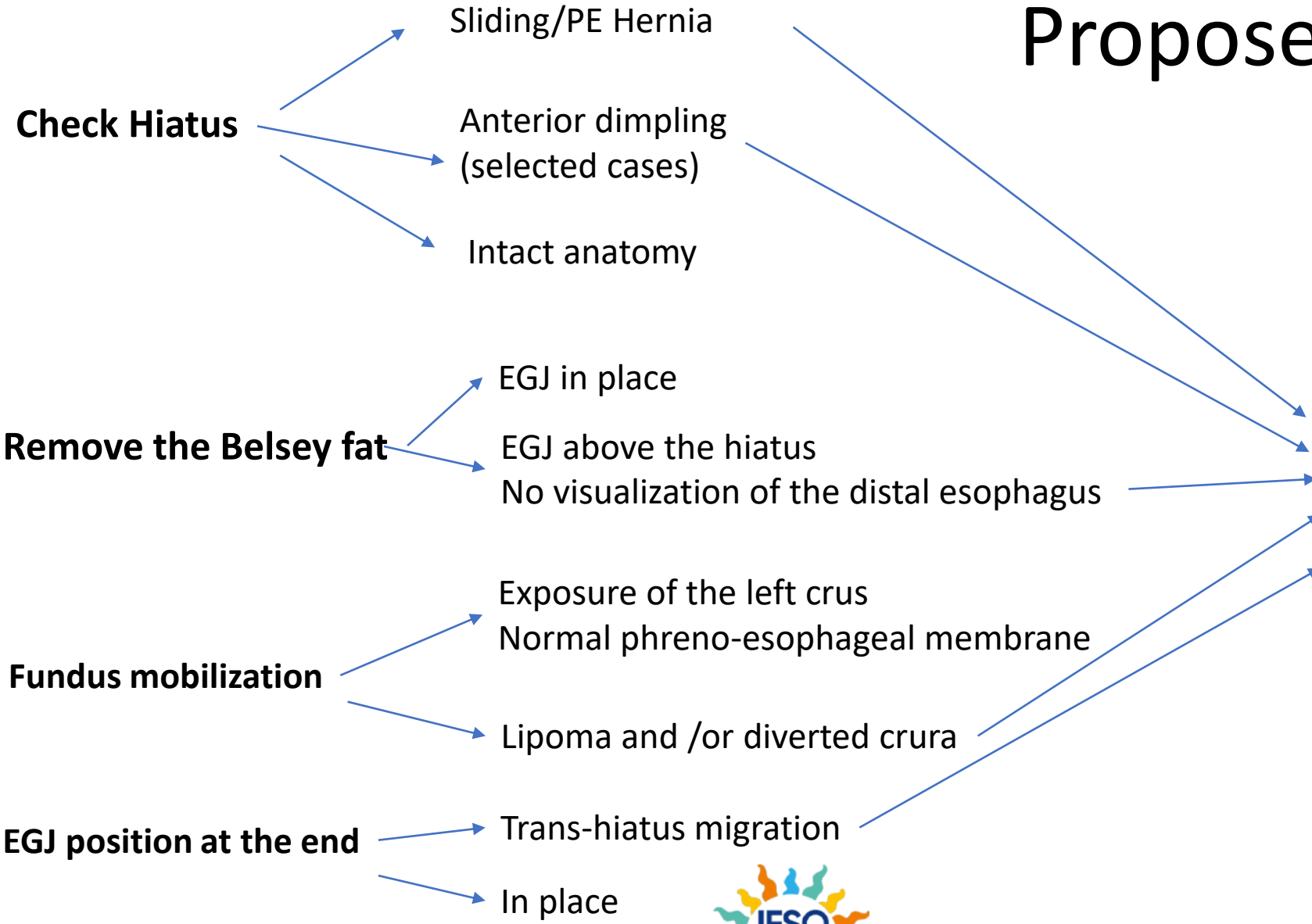
- Primary procedure:LSG
- Reoperation after 6 weeks (severe dysphagia)



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Courtesy of  
L. Angrisani

# Proposed algorithm



**Proceed hiatus defect/Hiatal hernia repair**



*\*Take  
home message*

## **WHEN TO PROCEED TO CONCOMITANT HHR**

The results of preoperative studies (endoscopy/imaging/manometry) show a low sensitivity and specificity

### **SHOULD NOT**

Influence intraoperative evaluation of the hiatus during any bariatric procedures. The intraoperative inspection of the hiatus allow to identify hiatal defects in an additional 35-45% of the cases.

Missing hiatal defect impact on postoperative outcomes.





***THANK YOU!***

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