



XXIX IFSO World Congress

1-4 September 2026 | Toronto, Canada

Anatomical Reversal after Bariatric Surgery

Medium- and Long-Term Nutritional, Weight, and Metabolic Outcomes

Libin Yao

Center for Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery, Affiliated Hospital of Xuzhou

Medical University Xuzhou, China

TORONTO2026

**The Future of Obesity Management:
From Weight Loss to Health Gain**



ifso2026.org

Disclosure

There is nothing to disclose



The Paradox of Bariatric Reversal

Bariatric surgery works by changing anatomy

- Gastric restriction / alteration
- Intestinal diversion
- Altered nutrient flow
- Altered enteroendocrine signaling



Weight loss & metabolic benefit

But sometimes the anatomy becomes the problem

- Severe malnutrition / Excessive weight loss
- Diarrhea / intolerance
- Dumping / post-bariatric hypoglycemia
- Marginal ulcer



Reversal

The anatomical changes that deliver profound health benefits can, in a small subset of patients, lead to life-threatening harm

Plath et al. Obes Surg. 2025 [2]; Rellme et al. Obes Surg. 2025 [7]

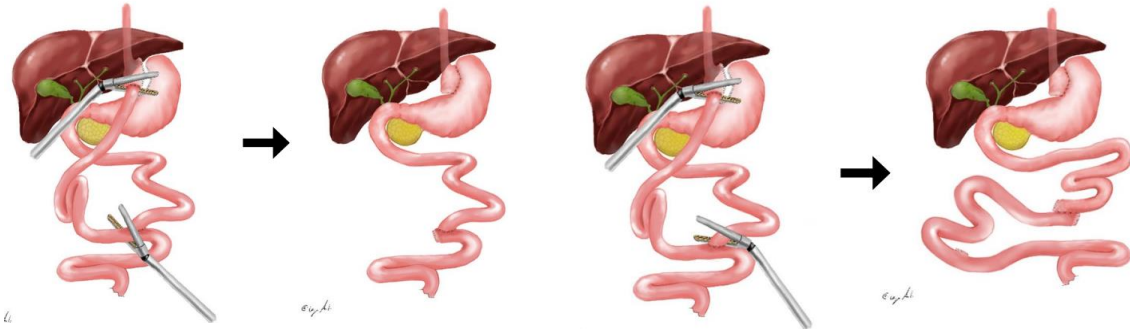


What Do We Mean by “Anatomical Reversal”?

I. Restoration to Normal / Near-normal Anatomy

- RYGB → normal anatomy
- OAGB/MGB → normal anatomy
- Historical JIB → restored intestinal continuity

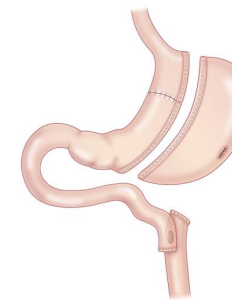
Final state: most bariatric anatomy removed



II. Intestinal De-bypass with Gastric Alteration Preserved

- RYGB → NASG / SG
- OAGB/MGB → SG
- SASI → SG
- SADI-S → continuity restored, SG retained

Final state: bypass removed — sleeve remains

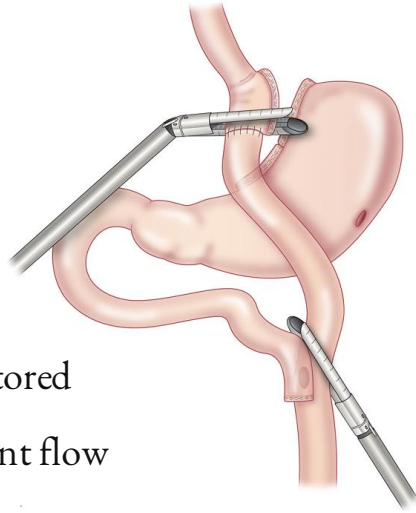


Common-channel lengthening, BPL shortening and other partial revisions are outside the scope of this presentation.



Two Anatomical Endpoints

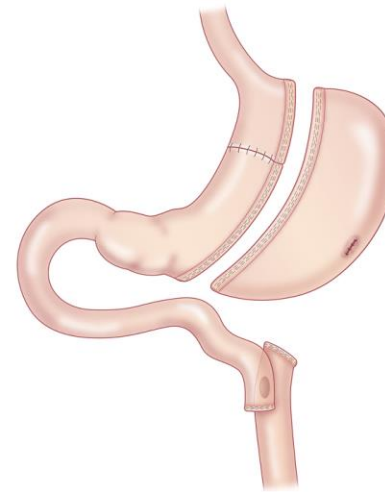
Normal / Near-normal Anatomy



- Gastric continuity restored
- Pylorus back in nutrient flow
- Duodenum re-exposed
- Intestinal bypass removed

vs

Intestinal Continuity + SG



- Intestinal bypass removed
- SG retained
- Foregut continuity restored
- Gastric bariatric physiology partly preserved

 Nutrition ?

 Weight ?

 Metabolism ?

Do these two final anatomies produce different medium- and long-term outcomes?



What Evidence Do We Actually Have?

EVIDENCE BY AVAILABLE FOLLOW-UP HORIZON

Early (under 2 y)

Sillén 2026 · Plath 2025 · Ma 2019 · Wafa 2026 · Carter 2016 · Chen 2016 ·
Wang 2025



Medium (2–5 y)

Rellme 2025 — 2.4 y · Gribsholt 2025 — ~3.4 y



Longer-term (over 5 y)

Arman 2018 — 5.3 y · Dean 1990 — ~6 y
Anderson 1994 — historical · Hamed 2026 — SASI 10-y cohort endpoint

Evidence is still mostly

- Retrospective
- Small-volume
- Heterogeneous
- Different indications
- Different final anatomies
- Poor metabolic reporting

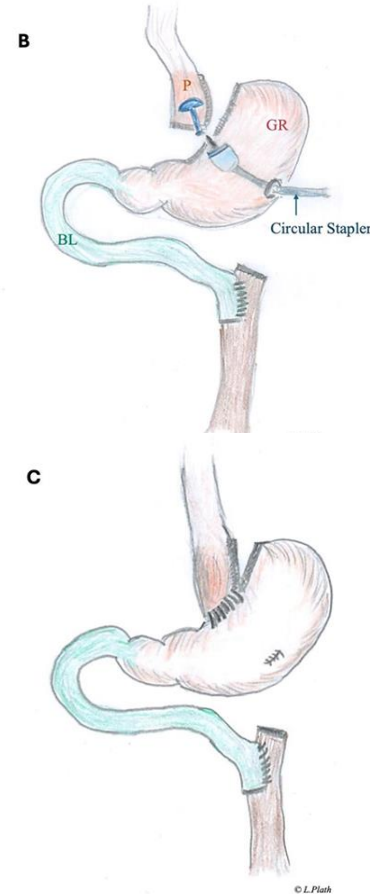
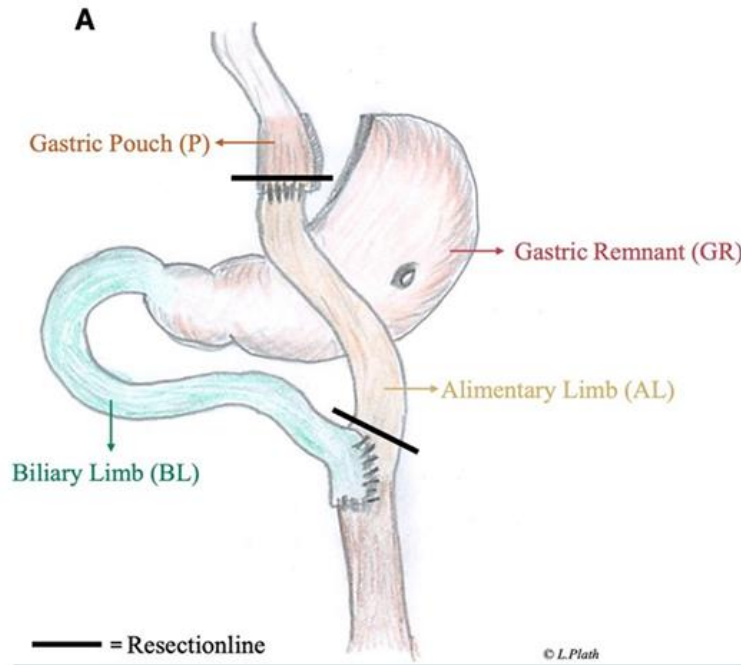
The largest studies are not necessarily the longest studies.

Arman [1]; Rellme [2]; Gribsholt [3]; Hamed [4]; Sillén [8]; Plath [7]; Ma [9]



Part I — Restoration to Normal / Near-normal Anatomy

What are we actually restoring?



This restores more than absorption.

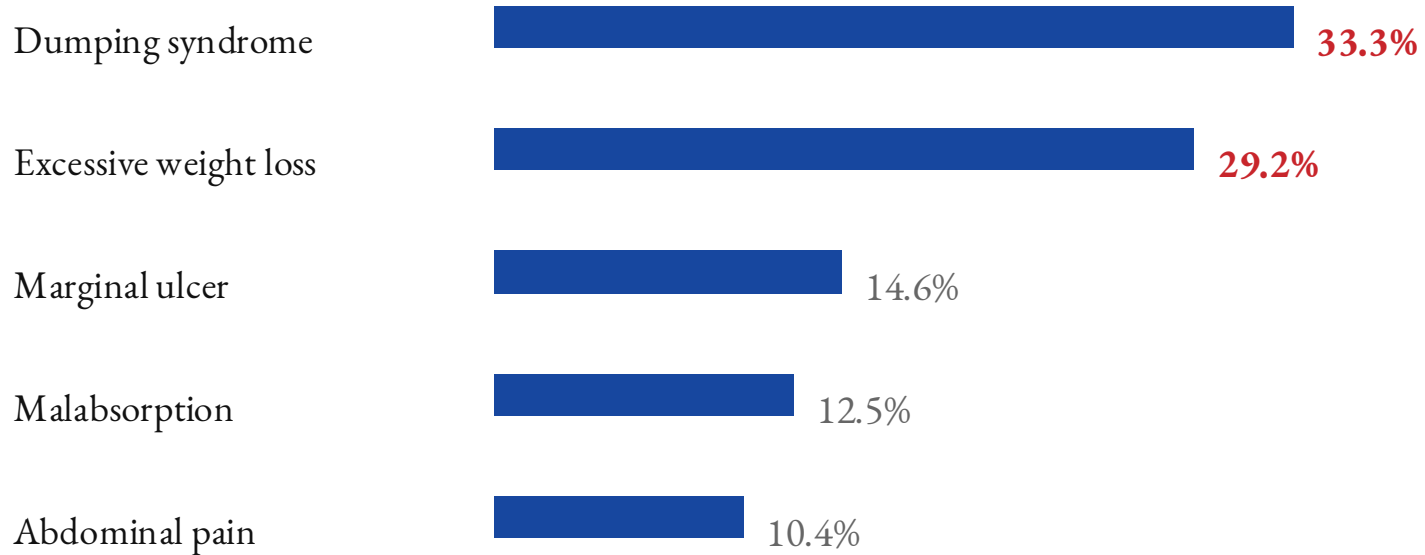
Gastric emptying, nutrient routing, foregut exposure and enteroendocrine signaling all change.

- Gastric continuity
- Pyloric passage
- Duodenal nutrient exposure
- Proximal jejunal continuity



Who Reaches Complete Reversal?

Plath et al. 2025 — RYGB reversal, n = 48



Sillén 2026 — Swedish national cohort, n = 199: reversal after RYGB is rare.

Complete reversal is usually a salvage procedure.

Plath et al. Obes Surg. 2025 [7]; Sillén et al. Ann Surg. 2026 [8]

7 years

Median RYGB → reversal

BMI 23.9

At reversal

50%

Had ≥1 previous bariatric
revision



Does Complete Reversal Actually Work?

Rellme 2025 — n = 70 • mean FU 2.4 y

Defined bypass-related indications (malnutrition / hypoglycemia / defined symptoms)

96%

complete symptom resolution

Abdominal pain

85%

complete or partial improvement — less predictable

Gribsholt 2025 — ~3.4 y

10 / 11

malabsorption resolved

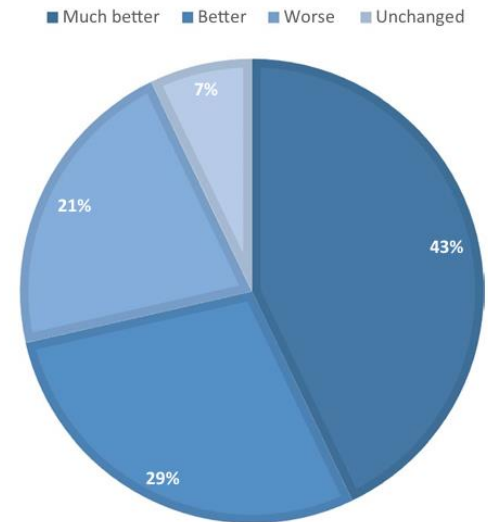
5 / 11

dumping / PBH complete remission

Persisted

abdominal pain remained common

AFTER REVERSAL VERSUS BETWEEN RYGB AND REVERSAL

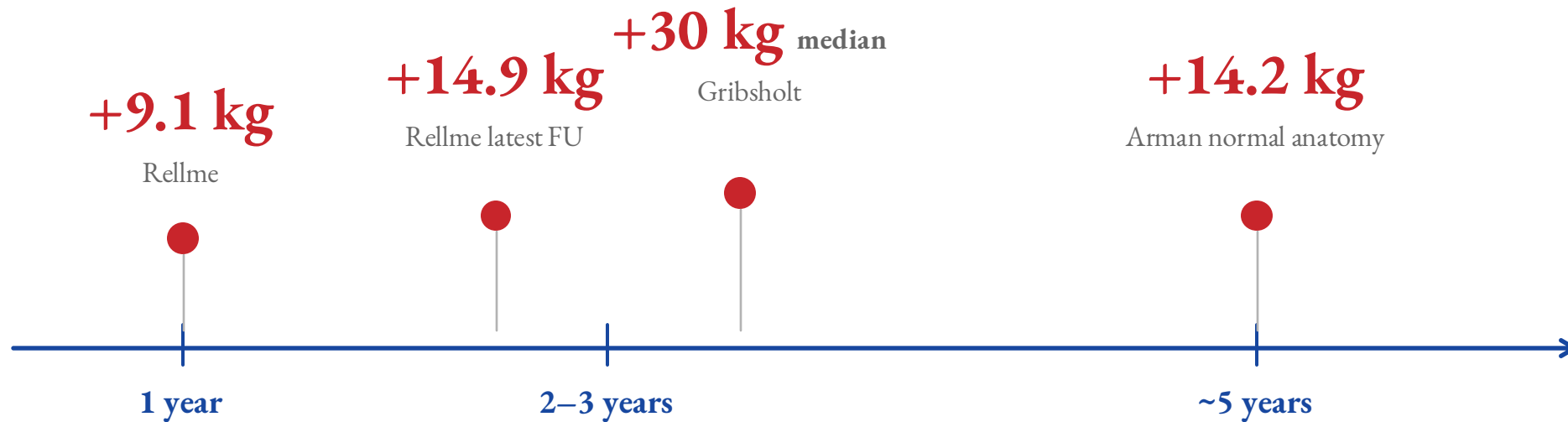


Benefit is more predictable when the indication is clearly linked to bypass physiology.

Rellme et al. [2]; Gribsholt et al. [3]



Weight Returns — and It Starts Early



🕒 **Anderson 1994 (JIB):** all reversed patients gained weight; many returned to severe obesity

Weight recurrence is an expected physiological consequence — not necessarily failure of reversal.

Cross-study descriptive comparison only — no pooled estimate.

Rellme [2]; Gribsholt [3]; Arman [1]; Anderson [6]



Metabolic Effects — Benefit and Uncertainty

What reversal can fix



Post-bariatric hypoglycemia — strong causal link to foregut bypass (Campos 2014; Davis 2018)



Dumping syndrome — leading reversal indication; responds when bypass physiology is removed

VS

What reversal may cost



Long-term metabolic recurrence — consequences of losing the bypass are largely unknown



Gribsholt 2025: 2 patients with T2DM recurrence after reversal

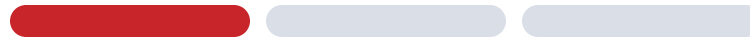
How well quantified is each metabolic domain?

PBH / dumping response



Well documented

T2DM / CV risk after reversal



Least quantified

We can predict what reversal cures far better than what it may later cost.

Campos et al. [19]; Davis et al. [20]; Gribsholt et al. [3]



Safety — Reversal Is Not a Benign Operation

Plath 2025 · n = 48

Overall morbidity **50%**

Clavien–Dindo III–IV **16.7%**

Reoperation **10.4%**

Mortality **1 death**

Rellme 2025 · n = 70

VTE **7.1%**

Reoperation **13%**

Ma 2019 · n = 48

single-institution retrospective series

30-day morbidity **29%**

Why the risk is high



Complex revisional anatomy — multiple anastomoses



Half had ≥ 1 previous bariatric revision



Often malnourished, compromised hosts



Patient selection and counselling must include the operative risk — not only the expected benefit.

Reversal trades a physiological problem for a surgical one — the exchange must be worth it.

Plath et al. [7]; Rellme et al. [2]; Ma et al. [9]



PART II

Intestinal De-bypass with Gastric Alteration Preserved

If we must remove the intestinal bypass — should we preserve a gastric bariatric component?

De-bypass restores intestinal continuity
→ rescues nutrition

+

Preserved sleeve keeps restriction →
may limit weight regain

=

De-bypass + sleeve — a middle path?



The Bridge Study — Arman 2018

Longest structured FU — 5.3 y

IFSO
XXIX IFSO
World Congress

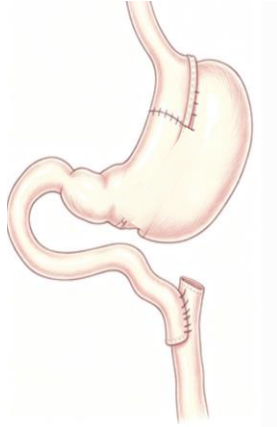
1-4 September 2026
Toronto, Canada

RYGB → Normal anatomy (NA) 13

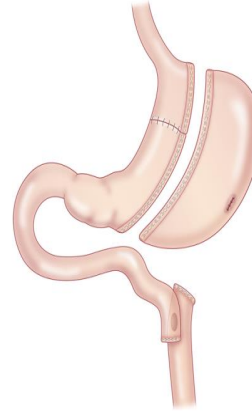
+14.2 kg

± 13.7 kg · at 5.3 years

Weight change at 5.3 y (kg)



vs



RYGB → Near-normal + SG (NASG) 12

−4.8 kg

weight maintained / further loss

NASG −4.8

NA +14.2

Small | Retrospective | Non-randomized — selection, not proven causality; more leaks in NASG.

One cohort, two endpoints — signals, not conclusions.

Arman et al. Obes Surg. 2018 [1]



RYGB → Sleeve Gastrectomy — Feasible, But Short Follow-up

Carter 2016 • n = 12

11 / 12

symptom resolution

BMI change -2.2 kg/m^2

patients experienced major complications 4 / 12

Original article
Conversion from gastric bypass to sleeve gastrectomy for complications of gastric bypass

Cullen O. Carter, M.D.^{*}, Adolfo Z. Fernandez, M.D., Stephen S. McNatt, M.D., Myron S. Powell, M.D.

Department of Surgery, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Received June 2, 2015; accepted July 1, 2015

Abstract

Background: Complications after gastric bypass (RYGB) are well documented. Reversal of RYGB is indicated in select cases but can lead to weight gain. Conversion from RYGB to sleeve gastrectomy (SG) has been proposed for correction of complications of RYGB without associated weight gain. However, little is known about outcomes after this procedure.

Objectives: To examine outcomes after conversion from RYGB to SG.

Setting: University hospital.

Methods: A retrospective study of patients who underwent RYGB to SG conversion was undertaken.

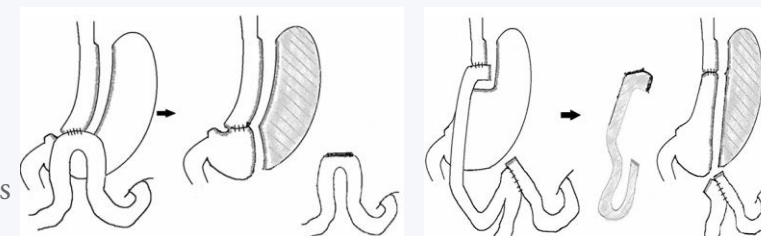
Results: Twelve patients underwent RYGB to SG conversion for refractory marginal ulceration, stricture, dumping, gastrogastrostic fistula, hypoglycemia, and failed weight loss. No deaths occurred. Four patients experienced 7 major complications, including portal vein thrombosis, bleeding, pancreatic leak, pulmonary embolus, seroma, anastomotic leak, and stricture. Two required reoperation, and 6 were readmitted within 30 days. Four required nasogastric feeding postoperatively because of prolonged nausea. The complication of RYGB resolved in 11 of 12 patients. At 14.7 months, change in body mass index for all patients was a decrease of 2.2 kg/m^2 . In 5 patients with morbid obesity at conversion, the change in body mass index was a decrease of 6.4 kg/m^2 at 19 months.

Conclusions: Laparoscopic conversion from RYGB to SG is successful in resolving certain complications of RYGB and does not result in short-term weight gain. However, conversion has a high rate of major complications as well as a high rate of readmission and need for supplemental nutrition. Although conversion to SG may be appropriate in carefully-selected patients, other options for patients with severe chronic complications after RYGB should be considered. (Surg Obs Relat Dis 2016;12:572-576.) © 2016 American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. All rights reserved.

Chen 2016 • n = 49

8.1%

major complications



49 gastric bypass → SG conversions; only 7 were RYGB;
technically feasible in experienced hands

! BUT FOLLOW-UP WAS SHORT

Feasibility and safety: established. Long-term weight and metabolism: unknown.

Carter et al. [15]; Chen et al. [16]



OAGB / MGB — Where Do Reversed Patients End Up?

Kermansaravi 2021 — systematic review

14

studies

119

reversals

~1%

of OAGB patients

Leading indication: protein-energy malnutrition / hypoalbuminemia

Overall complication rate after reversal: ~10.9%

23.6 months = OAGB → reversal interval, not post-reversal FU

Bandlamudi 2023 — revisional strategies for severe malnutrition

Severe malnutrition
after OAGB

126 (28.2%) → normal anatomy

46 (10.3%) → sleeve gastrectomy

41 (9.2%) → RYGB



For severe malnutrition after OAGB, different revisional endpoints are used—practice has not converged.

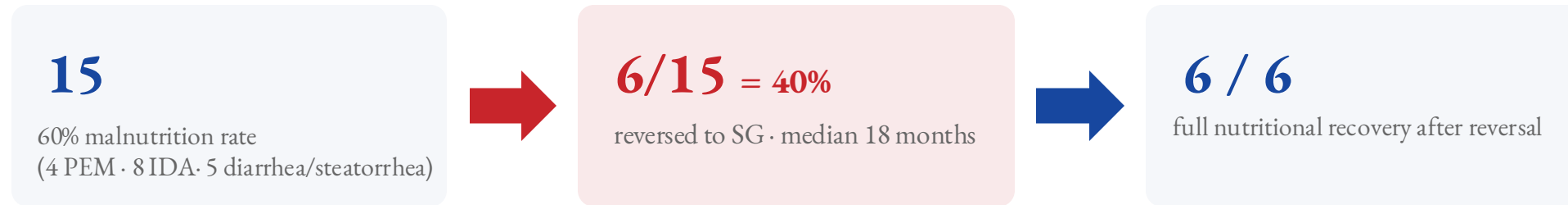
The sleeve-preserving option already exists in OAGB practice — without comparative evidence.

Kermansaravi et al. [13]; Bandlamudi et al. [14]

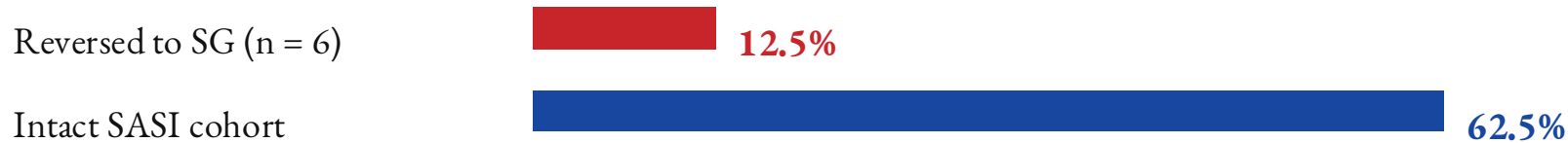


SASI → Sleeve — Nutrition Rescued, Weight Effect Lost

Hamed 2026 — SASI bypass cohort, 10-y endpoint from index operation



%EWL at cohort endpoint



All 6 reversed patients returned to **BMI ≥ 35**

 Endpoint measured from **index SASI operation** — not 10 years after reversal.

The sleeve alone did not maintain the weight effect of the intact SASI anatomy.

Hamed et al. 2026 [4]



Recent Evidence — Feasibility, Not Durability

Wang 2025

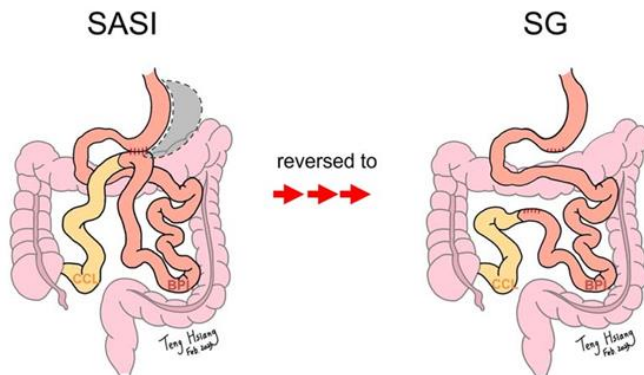
SASI → SG

n = 3— Technical feasibility demonstrated; malabsorption and nutritional problems improved. No meaningful long-term outcome data.

Andraos 2025

6 patients underwent intestinal reversal

Albumin normalized by 3 months across the reoperated cohort
Abstract-level evidence; no long-term post-reversal outcomes



These studies demonstrate feasibility—not long-term efficacy.

Wang et al. 2025 [17]; Andraos et al. 2025 [18]



When Bariatric Anatomy Became the Problem

Patient & initial surgery

35 y ♀ · 93.5 kg · BMI 36.5

Metabolic syndrome · fatty liver · dyslipidemia ·
target 55 kg

Dec 2022 — SASI

Gastro-ileal anastomosis 260 cm from ICV

Early complications

- Recurrent vomiting
- Cramping abdominal pain
- Recurrent bowel obstruction

POD 33 — adhesiolysis + revision

SASI → BTB

Progressive deterioration

- Poor oral intake · edema
- Numbness, weakness
- Hypoproteinemia
- PN + EN + jejunal feeding

48 kg · BMI 18.75

at final admission, Nov 2023

Weight trajectory (kg)

93.5 kg



baseline

82 kg



60 kg



48 kg



Nov 2023

When diversion exceeds nutritional tolerance, the anatomy itself becomes the source of harm.



Reversal to Sleeve — Nutrition Rescued, Weight Returned

Before reversal — Nov 2023

48 kg · BMI 18.75

Hb **70** g/L · Alb **29.8** g/L

TP **47.7** g/L

Severe wasting · hair thinning · persistent GI intolerance

Definitive revision

SASI → BTB

→ SG alone

Both anastomoses dismantled — complete intestinal de-bypass

After reversal — 4 months

Alb 29.8 → **42.8** g/L

TP 47.7 → **70.6** g/L

Hb 70 → **127** g/L

Weight 48 → **73** kg

Oral intake restored · protein normalized · functional recovery

Long-term weight trajectory (kg)



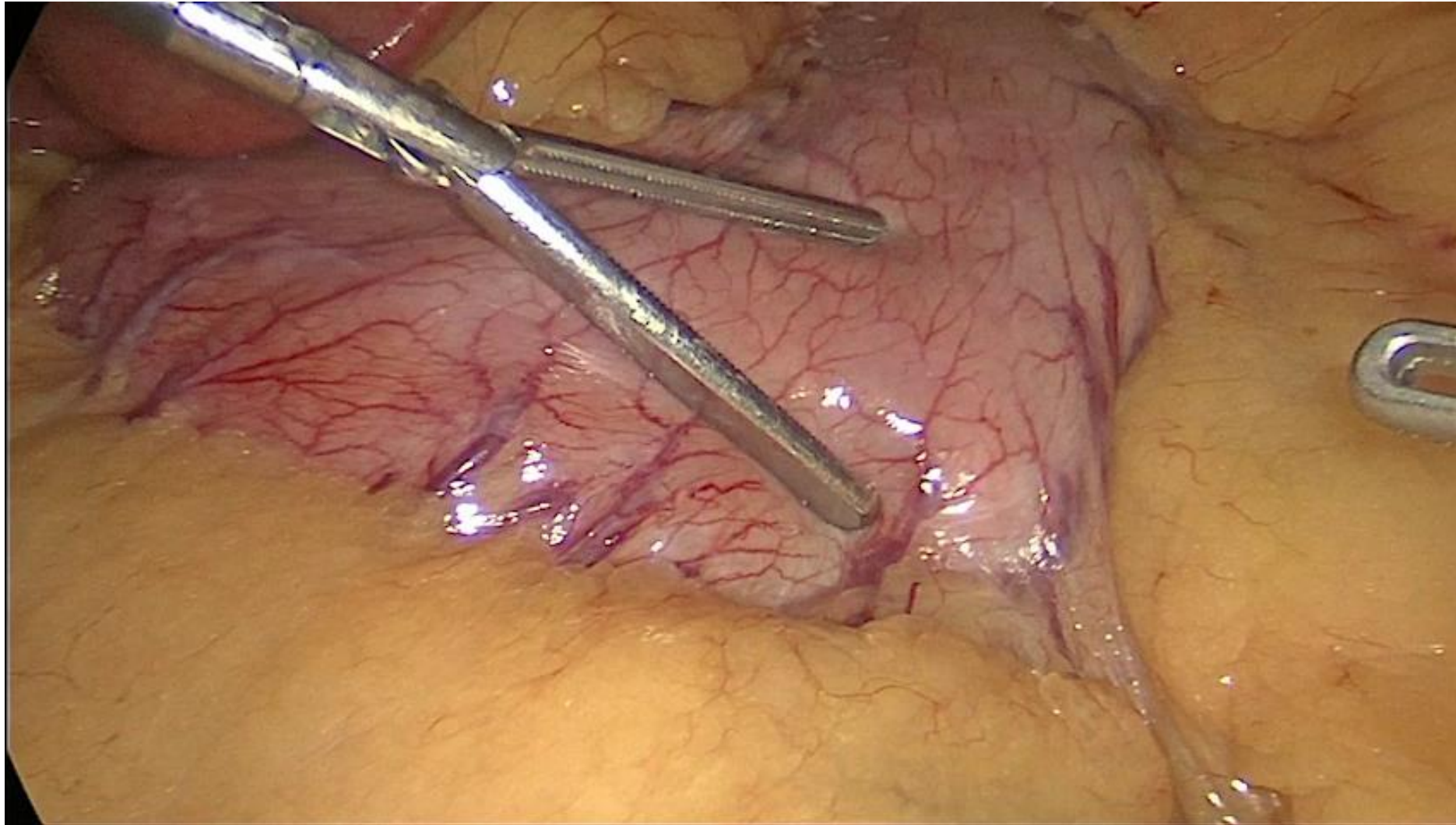
Malnutrition rescued — **weight recurrence followed**: an expected consequence of removing diversion, not necessarily failure.



Video 1. Primary SASI

IFSO
XXIX IFSO
World Congress

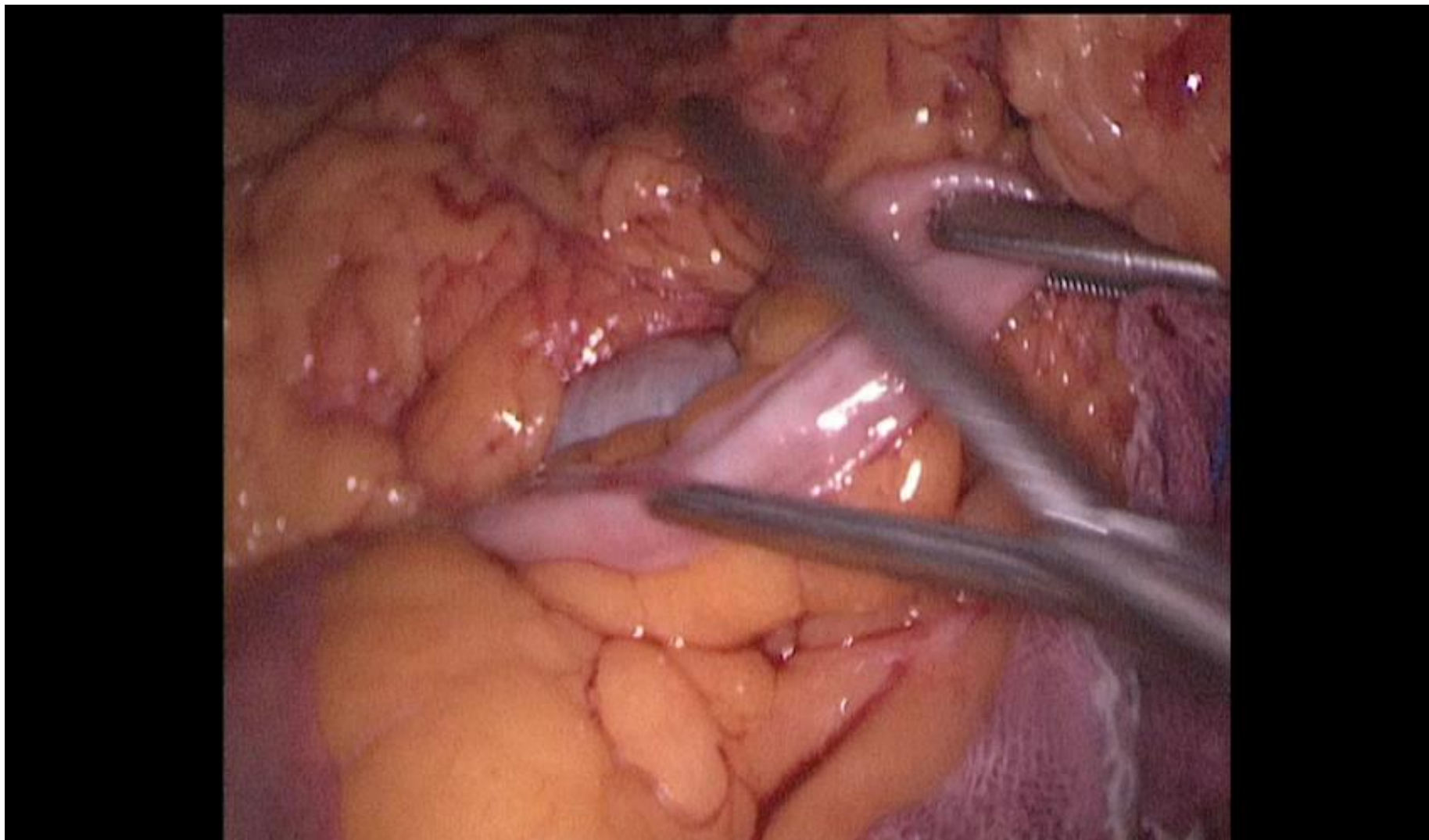
1-4 September 2026
Toronto, Canada



Video 2. Revisional Surgery: SASI to BTB

IFSO
XXIX IFSO
World Congress

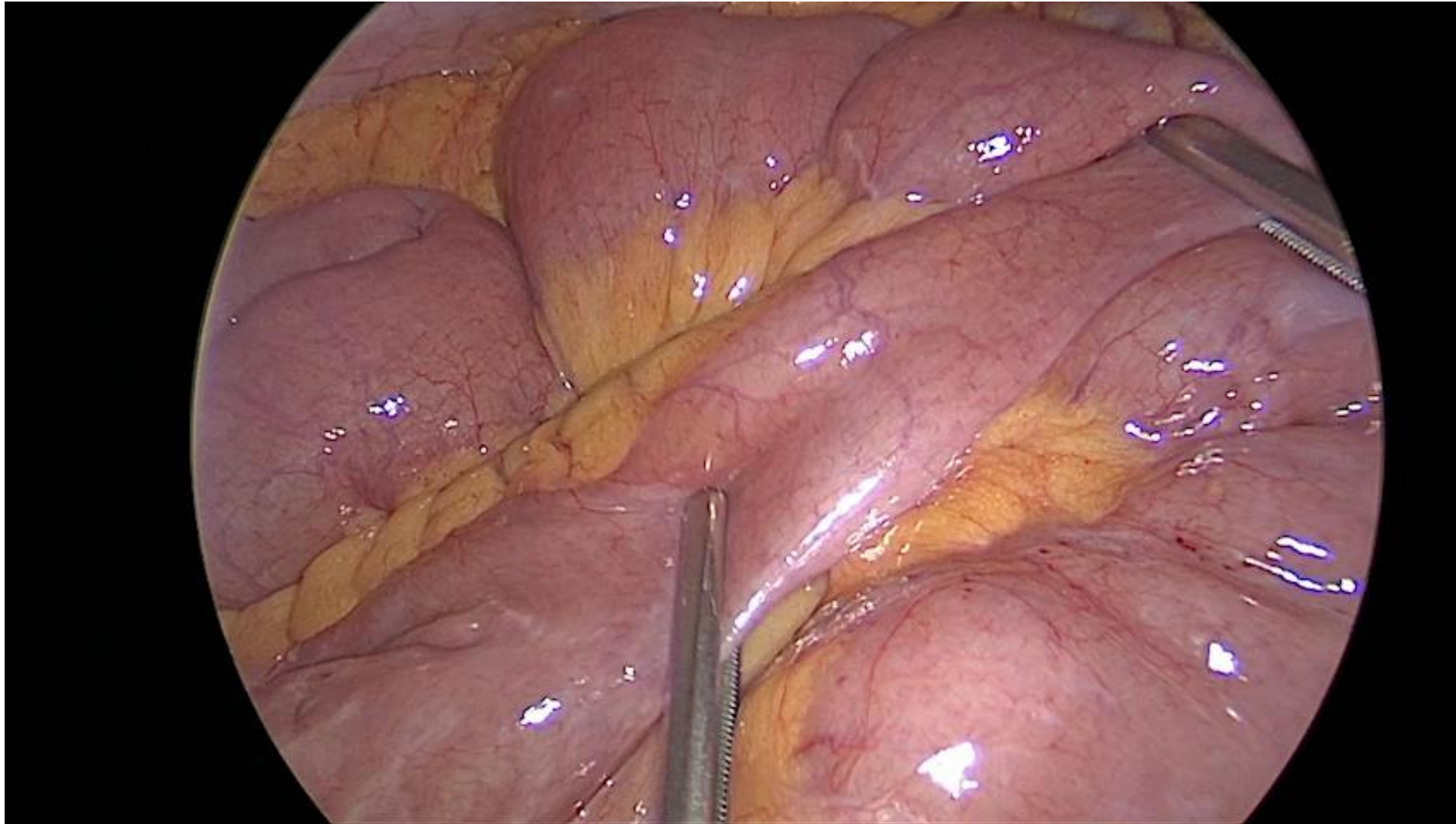
1-4 September 2026
Toronto, Canada



Video 3. Complete De-bypass to Sleeve Gastrectomy

IFSO
XXIX IFSO
World Congress

1-4 September 2026
Toronto, Canada



Is the Sleeve Enough?

Probably only partly.



Gastric component
sleeve-related effects

+



Intestinal nutrient routing

+



Enteroendocrine effects

= Integrated bariatric effect

De-bypass + SG preserves the gastric component, while removing much of the intestinal-routing effect and altering enteroendocrine signaling.

SASI evidence: the sleeve alone did not fully preserve the long-term weight effect.

For a malnourished patient, trading some weight effect for nutritional rescue may still be the right exchange.

Hamed et al. [4]; Arman et al. [1]



Two Endpoints — Two Trade-offs

Endpoint I — Normal anatomy

- + Maximal nutritional rescue
 - + Most predictable symptom relief
 - Most procedure-specific bariatric effects are removed
 - Substantial weight recurrence is common (+9 to +30 kg across cohorts)
- Evidence: several cohorts, FU to 5.3 y (Arman)

Endpoint II — Sleeve preserved

- + Nutritional rescue demonstrated
 - + Gastric bariatric component retained (Arman −4.8 kg)
 - SASI: substantial long-term weight recurrence (%EWL 12.5%)
 - Evidence thin — feasibility level
- Evidence: small series, mostly short-term

No robust head-to-head evidence

The optimal final anatomy remains unknown.

Arman [1]; Rellme [2]; Gribsholt [3]; Hamed [4]



Choosing the Final Anatomy — and What We Take Home

Option A — Full restoration, when...

- Nutritional rescue is the overriding goal
- Recurrent symptoms despite lesser revisions

Option B — Preserve the sleeve, when...

- Weight control still matters to the patient
- A usable gastric remnant / sleeve can safely remain

No evidence-based selection algorithm currently exists.

Take-home messages

- 1 Reversal is a salvage procedure — with real risk.
- 2 Nutritional rescue is the most consistent benefit.
- 3 After full restoration, weight regain is expected.
- 4 Sleeve preservation: promising — but unproven.

The goal of anatomical reversal should not be merely to normalize anatomy. It should be to **rescue nutritional health while minimizing the loss of effective bariatric physiology.**

When reversal becomes necessary — what should the final anatomy be?



Master Evidence Table

Study	Design	n	Follow-up	Key finding
Arman 2018 [1]	Retrospective, 2 endpoints	25	5.3 y	NA +14.2 kg vs NASG -4.8 kg (NS in NASG)
Rellme 2025 [2]	Cohort	70	2.4 y	96% resolution in defined indications; +9.1 → +14.9 kg
Gribsholt 2025 [3]	Questionnaire cohort	14 respondents	~3.4 y	Malabsorption improved; PBH/dumping 5/11 complete remission; +30 kg median
Hamed 2026 [4]	SASI cohort	95 total; Group 1 n=15; reversal n=6	10 y from index SASI*	Reversal 6/15; %EWL 12.5% vs 62.5%
Dean 1990 [5]	JIB reversal series	43	73±5 mo	Durable nutritional improvement
Anderson 1994 [6]	JIB reversal series	60 reversed	≥3 y post-reversal	Universal weight regain
Plath 2025 [7]	Multicenter	48	up to 1 y	Morbidity 50%; CD III–IV 16.7%
Sillén 2026 [8]	Nationwide cohort	199	early / 1-y outcome	Rare (~0.3%); symptom and safety outcomes reported
Ma 2019 [9]	Single-institution retrospective	48	mainly early	30-day morbidity 29%





1. **Arman GA, Himpens J, Bolckmans R, Van Compernelle D, Vilallonga R, Leman G.** Medium-Term Outcomes after Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass. *Obes Surg.* 2018;28(3):781-790. doi:10.1007/s11695-017-2928-7 .
2. **Rellme D, Shah K, Ekelund M, Gislason H.** Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass to Normal Anatomy—Experience of 70 Patients. *Obes Surg.* 2025;35(4):1484-1492. doi:10.1007/s11695-025-07796-7 .
3. **Gribsholt SB, Madsen LR, Poulsen IM, Bruun JM, Richelsen B.** Changes in Symptoms and General Well-being After Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: A Questionnaire Survey. *Obes Surg.* 2025;35(1):33-39. doi:10.1007/s11695-024-07321-2 .
4. **Hamed H, Tarek M, Gado W, Eldesoky M, Mahdy T.** Ten-Year Outcomes of Single-Anastomosis Sleeve Ileal (SASI) Bypass: Surgical Configuration Determines Long-Term Efficacy and Safety. *Obes Surg.* 2026;36(3):960-970. doi:10.1007/s11695-025-08460-w .
5. **Dean P, Joshi S, Kaminski DL.** Long-term outcome of reversal of small intestinal bypass operations. *Am J Surg.* 1990;159(1):118-124. doi:10.1016/S0002-9610(05)80616-6 .
6. **Anderson PE, Pilkington TRE, Gazet JC.** Reversal of jejunioileal bypass in patients with morbid obesity. *Br J Surg.* 1994;81(7):1015-1017. doi:10.1002/bjs.1800810728 .
7. **Plath L, Vannijvel M, Okkema S, Deleus E, Lloyd A, Lo Menzo E, et al.** Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: A Multi-Centric Analysis of Indications, Techniques, and Surgical Outcomes. *Obes Surg.* 2025;35(2):471-480. doi:10.1007/s11695-024-07650-2 .
8. **Sillén L, Hansson E, Rellme D, Szabo E, Hedberg S, Orrenius B, et al.** Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: A Swedish National Cohort Study. *Ann Surg.* Published online April 27, 2026. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000007074 .
9. **Ma P, Ghiassi S, Lloyd A, Haddad A, Boone K, DeMaria E, Higa K.** Reversal of Roux en Y gastric bypass: largest single institution experience. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2019;15(8):1311-1316. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2019.05.005 .
10. **Shoar S, Nguyen T, Ona MA, Reddy M, Anand S, Alkuwari MJ, Saber AA.** Roux-en-Y gastric bypass reversal: a systematic review. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(7):1366-1372. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2016.02.023 .
11. **Pernar LIM, Kim JJ, Shikora SA.** Gastric bypass reversal: a 7-year experience. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(8):1492-1498. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2016.03.032 .
12. **Wafa A, Algddar K, Al-Momani H, Naji S, Shagan A, Zidan MH, Hany M.** Anatomic Reversal of Gastric Bypass as a Last Resort for Refractory Complications: A Retrospective Case Series. *Obes Surg.* Published online July 20, 2026. doi:10.1007/s11695-026-08863-3 .
13. **Kermansaravi M, Shahabi Shahmiri S, Davarpanah Jazi AH, Valizadeh R, Weiner RA, Chiappetta S.** Reversal to normal anatomy after one-anastomosis/mini gastric bypass, indications and results: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2021;17(8):1489-1496. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2021.04.013 .
14. **Bandlamudi N, Holt G, Graham Y, O'Kane M, Singhal R, Parmar C, et al.** Malnutrition Following One-Anastomosis Gastric Bypass: a Systematic Review. *Obes Surg.* 2023;33(12):4137-4146. doi:10.1007/s11695-023-06907-6 .
15. **Carter CO, Fernandez AZ, McNatt SS, Powell MS.** Conversion from gastric bypass to sleeve gastrectomy for complications of gastric bypass. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(3):572-576. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2015.07.001 .
16. **Chen CY, Lee WJ, Lee HM, Chen JC, Ser KH, Lee YC, Chen SC.** Laparoscopic Conversion of Gastric Bypass Complication to Sleeve Gastrectomy: Technique and Early Results. *Obes Surg.* 2016;26(9):2014-2021. doi:10.1007/s11695-016-2066-7 .
17. **Wang YJ, Teng H, Pan HM, Hsu KF.** Reversal to Normal Anatomy for Patients With Excessive Weight Loss or Severe Malnutrition After Single Anastomosis Sleeve Ileal (SASI) Bypass. *Surg Laparosc Endosc Percutan Tech.* 2025;35(5):1-3. doi:10.1097/SLE.0000000000001390 .
18. **Andraos Y, Andraos M.** IBC Oxford University Oral Abstract 9—Reversal of SADI bypass to normal anatomy. *Br J Surg.* 2025;112(Suppl 5):znaf036.009. doi:10.1093/bjs/znaf036.009 .
19. **Campos GM, Ziemelis M, Paparodis R, Ahmed M, Davis DB.** Laparoscopic reversal of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass: technique and utility for treatment of endocrine complications. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2014;10(1):36-43. doi:10.1016/j.soard.2013.05.012 .
20. **Davis DB, Khoraki J, Ziemelis M, Sirinvaravong S, Han JY, Campos GM.** Roux en Y gastric bypass hypoglycemia resolves with gastric feeding or reversal: Confirming a non-pancreatic etiology. *Mol Metab.* 2018;9:15-27. doi:10.1016/j.molmet.2017.12.011

XXX IFSO WORLD CONGRESS

"Advancing Multimodal Obesity Care"

24-27 August 2027

ifso2027.org



IFSO
PARIS 2027

See you in

PARIS

