
Section X

Endoscopic Approaches in Obesity and Bariatric Surgery

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In the following four chapters, the authors set out to describe the role of endoscopic therapies to act as a primary means of tackling obesity, an adjunct to the management of severe and complex obesity, endoscopic treatments of complications after surgical procedures in Bariatric patients and what the future of endotherapy might hold for both the bariatric surgeon and patient.

Some of the techniques described are tried and tested with appropriate long term follow up data and outcomes, some are novel and may never enter into wide stream clinical practice. What is certain is that the techniques described in the following pages should be considered when bariatric patients are being assessed and their management plans formulated by both surgeon and endoscopist.

The chapters describing some of the newer endoluminal techniques currently available for the management of obesity are both insightful in their conclusions. Although these techniques may show promise, the authors are careful to mention that the aspiration of any new technique should be equivalence in terms of long term benefit when being compared with the laparoscopic techniques that are widely available. Long term follow up data from clinical trials must be sought for validation.

Bariatric surgeons should be aware of the contents of the chapter on the endoscopic management of complications after surgery. Although complications are relatively uncommon after bariatric surgery compared with other type of upper gastrointestinal surgery, they can be catastrophic and lead to significant morbidity. Less invasive techniques for managing these potentially fatal complications are a valuable adjunct to more traditional surgical therapy and may well be associated with less morbidity in the long term.