

Review of: "Impact of Telemedicine on Post-Bariatric Surgery Outcomes and Patient Satisfaction During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Retrospective Observational Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Authors,

First, I would like to congratulate you all on the topic of the study, which is very important not only for your own country but for the entire globe. The subject of obesity is now a concern for everyone and every health system.

I have several concerns about the type of the study; I cannot define it as an observational cross-sectional study, as you cannot observe the data and call it this way. It is a clear mixed study design, and it was mentioned clearly that the variables are qualitative and quantitative. However, I could not see any qualitative data, neither the analysis nor interpretation. Not forgetting that satisfaction/dissatisfaction opinions towards bariatric surgery and telemedicine and all related factors could be nicely obtained from open-question interviews. The Likert-scale questionnaire does not always answer your research question.

The study has two important aspects: bariatric surgery and telemedicine. However, the introduction was very long and not focused, and the results section did not thoroughly discuss the telemedicine service. I would like to see some quotes from the interviews, not just the percentages related to satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

With qualitative data, qualitative studies, or even mixed studies, you should mention methodological considerations as a sub-heading in the manuscript. Considering the researcher's input in the data, it is important to identify if the authors were insiders or outsiders during data collection.

The statistical tests are only designed for quantitative data. Therefore, they cannot be adopted for qualitative variables. Why is it mentioned that the tests were adopted for all variables in the manuscript?

References such as 2012 and 2015 could be considered outdated.