



Improvement of Renal Function After Bariatric Surgery: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Hongyan Huang^{1,2,3} · Jun Lu⁴ · Xiaojiang Dai^{1,2} · Zhixin Li⁵ · Liyong Zhu⁶ · Shaihong Zhu⁶ · Liangping Wu^{1,2}

Received: 27 April 2021 / Revised: 22 July 2021 / Accepted: 22 July 2021 / Published online: 6 August 2021
© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2021

Abstract

Background/Objective The effect of bariatric surgery in renal function varies and the postoperative benefit time point remains unclear. We aim to assess the changes of renal function after bariatric surgery (BS) in different postoperative periods and subgroups.

Methods We searched the databases of PubMed and Cochrane from inception to December 14, 2020. Articles included in the study were drawn from all recipients of BS that provided assessments of renal function pre and post-surgery. Meta-analysis was performed to compare glomerular filtration rate (GFR), serum creatinine, albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR), and albuminuria before and after BS.

Results The study included 49 articles involving 8515 patients. Compared with pre-operative renal function, the overall analysis showed that bariatric surgery significantly reduced serum creatinine levels, ACR, and albuminuria. There was significant increase of GFR in the CKD subgroup, yet a noticeable decrease in the hyperfiltration subgroup. The most significant improvement in GFR was seen 6–12 months after BS, while ACR dropped most dramatically 12–24 months after BS.

Conclusions Bariatric surgery can improve renal function in obese patients with kidney dysfunction, especially 1 year after surgery.

Keywords Bariatric surgery · Renal function · Obesity · Meta-analysis

Introduction

Obesity is a serious risk factor for the occurrence and development of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Obesity not only indirectly increases the risk of CKD through diabetes and

hypertension, but also directly affects renal function and structure [1]. The high filtration rate caused by obesity gradually decreased, along with the development of obesity-related renal damaged, and eventually developed into end-stage renal disease [2]. In the setting of obesity, the main clinical manifestations of kidney disease were proteinuria, albuminuria, hyperfiltration, or decreased glomerular filtration rate [3].

Bariatric surgery is one of the most effective treatments to maintain long-term weight loss. The obesity-related complications are significantly improved after BS such as

Key Points

- Bariatric surgery can improve renal function only in obese patients with kidney dysfunction.
- Renal function improved most after 1 year of bariatric surgery.
- Compared with RYGB (Roux-en-Y gastric bypass), patients received SG (sleeve gastrectomy) benefited more in the reduction of serum creatinine.

✉ Liangping Wu
drwulp@163.com

Liyong Zhu
zly8128@126.com

Shaihong Zhu
shaihongzhu@126.com

¹ Surgical Center for Obesity and Diabetes, Jinshazhou Hospital, Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou 510515, China

² UDM Medical Group, Guangzhou 510515, China

³ Clinical Research Center, The Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha 410013, China

⁴ School of Medicine, Hunan Normal University, Changsha 410013, China

⁵ Clinical Medicine Eight-Year Program, Xiangya School of Medicine, Central South University, 18 Grade, Changsha 410013, China

⁶ Department of General Surgery, Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha 410013, China

hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetic complications and [4–6]. The improvement of these complications will have a positive effect on the kidney theoretically. Several previous studies have also showed that BS can improve renal function [7–9]. However, in other studies, BS is regarded as a risk factor to acute kidney damage and is associated with hyperoxaluria which can lead to kidney stone formation and renal insufficiency [10, 11]. Therefore, the effect of bariatric surgery on renal function remains controversial.

There are some previous meta-analysis of the effect of BS on renal function. However, these studies were limited to the analysis of single renal function indicators or specific patients such as patients with T2D or CKD [12–14]. Moreover, these meta-reviews did not compare the impact of bariatric surgery on renal function between different BS methods or different follow-up stages. Several important studies with larger sample size were reported recently regarding the changes in pre- and post-operative renal function, which may provide further evidence for the influence of BS on renal function [9, 15–18]. Therefore, we included the latest relevant literature and more evaluation index of renal function to conduct a more comprehensive meta-analysis of the influence of BS on renal function.

Materials and Methods

Search Strategy

Two authors independently searched published studies indexed in the databases of PubMed and Cochrane from inception to December 14, 2020. The search keywords are as follows: bariatric surgery, metabolic surgery, gastric bypass, gastric banding, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), sleeve gastrectomy (SG), renal function, renal outcomes, glomerular filtration rate, serum creatinine, creatinine clearance, albuminuria, 24-h urine albumin excretion rate, and urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio.

Study Selection

We screened all the articles that participants received bariatric surgery and reported renal function indexes before and after surgery. The renal function indexes included GFR, serum creatinine, albuminuria, and ACR. The bariatric surgery mainly included RYGB and SG, but not limited to these two types of surgery. The patients did not have specific limits if the participants met the bariatric surgical indications. Reviews, case reports, or meta-analysis was excluded. Articles that had no follow-up rate, no available data, or based on the same study population were excluded.

Data Extraction and Synthesis

This review included all published randomized controlled trials or observational studies that assessed the change of GFR, serum creatinine, albuminuria, and ACR after BS. The pre- and post-surgery mean values with standard deviation (or standard error) of those renal function indexes were collected and included in the analysis. The continuous data provided in some studies were median and interquartile ranges, which were inconsistent with other articles, so they were not included in the analysis. For articles that reported renal function indexes at multiple follow-up time, we selected the data of the longest follow-up to analysis; only in subgroup analysis based on different follow-up periods after bariatric surgery, we included the date of all follow-up time reported in the article. The information of study design, baseline clinical characteristics of the study population, type of surgery, and duration of follow-up were extracted in all included articles.

Quality Assessment

Two authors assessed the study quality for all included observational studies using the Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS). A total score of 3 or less was considered poor quality. We excluded studies from our meta-analysis if they had poor quality. Discrepant opinions were resolved by consultation between all authors.

Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using ReviewManager version 5.3. We used a random-effects model for meta-analysis and expressed treatment effects as a risk ratio with 95% confidence intervals (CI) for dichotomous outcomes and mean difference with 95% CI for continuous outcomes. An $I^2 > 50\%$ indicated a large heterogeneity not explained by chance.

Results

Description of Included Studies

1585 studies were cited as relevant articles after database searching. Repeated, unreported renal function, case reports, reviews, or meta-analysis was excluded after reading the title and abstract. Sixty-one articles were screened for intensive reading. Twelve articles were excluded because of no follow-up rate, no available data, or based on the same study population. Finally, 49 studies were incorporated into the meta-analysis [7–9, 16–61]. A flow diagram displaying the process of selecting the included studies is illustrated in Fig. 1. And the baseline study and patients' characteristics are outlined in Table 1.

Quality Assessment of Included Studies

Newcastle–Ottawa scale was used to evaluate the quality of the included studies. Total score of each document ranges from 4 to 9. And the total score of all studies was not less than 3 (3 represents low quality). Totally 49 studies were all incorporated into the meta-analysis.

Meta-analysis Results

GFR

GFR was assessed in 33 out of 49 studies pre- and post-operative; 6 articles were excluded because their results were inconsistent with other studies. GFR increased after BS in 22 out of 27 studies, while decreased in the remaining 5 studies. Twenty-seven studies involving 3157 patients were integrated into meta-analysis of GFR. There was no significant

difference in GFR changes after BS in the analysis between the overall group (MD, 3.08 ml/min/1.73 m²; 95% CI, -1.35 to +7.52 ml/min/1.73 m²) and the normal GFR subgroup ($90 \leq \text{GFR} \leq 120$) (MD, 0.44 ml/min/1.73 m²; 95% CI, -3.46 to +4.35 ml/min/1.73 m²) (Fig. 2). However, with GFR < 90 subgroup (CDK subgroup), the post-operative GFR increased by 13.81 ml/min/1.73 m² (95% CI, 10.31 to 17.32 ml/min/1.73 m²). For the GFR > 120 subgroup (hyperfiltration subgroup), the post-operative GFR decreased by 9.61 (95% CI, -16.31 to -2.91 ml/min/1.73 m²) (Fig. 2). Also, there was no statistically significant of the pre- and post-operative changes in GFR, with or without diabetes, no matter how the surgical technique (RYGB, SG, or LAGB) had been taken (Supplemental Fig. 1). There was a biggest increase of GFR (MD 14.27 ml/min/1.73 m²) in 6–12 months after BS. Post-operative GFR of 6 months, 2 years, and 5–10 years increased 9.53, 7.37, and 6.02 ml/min/1.73 m², respectively (Fig. 7A and Supplemental Fig. 2).

Fig. 1 Flowchart of the selection process

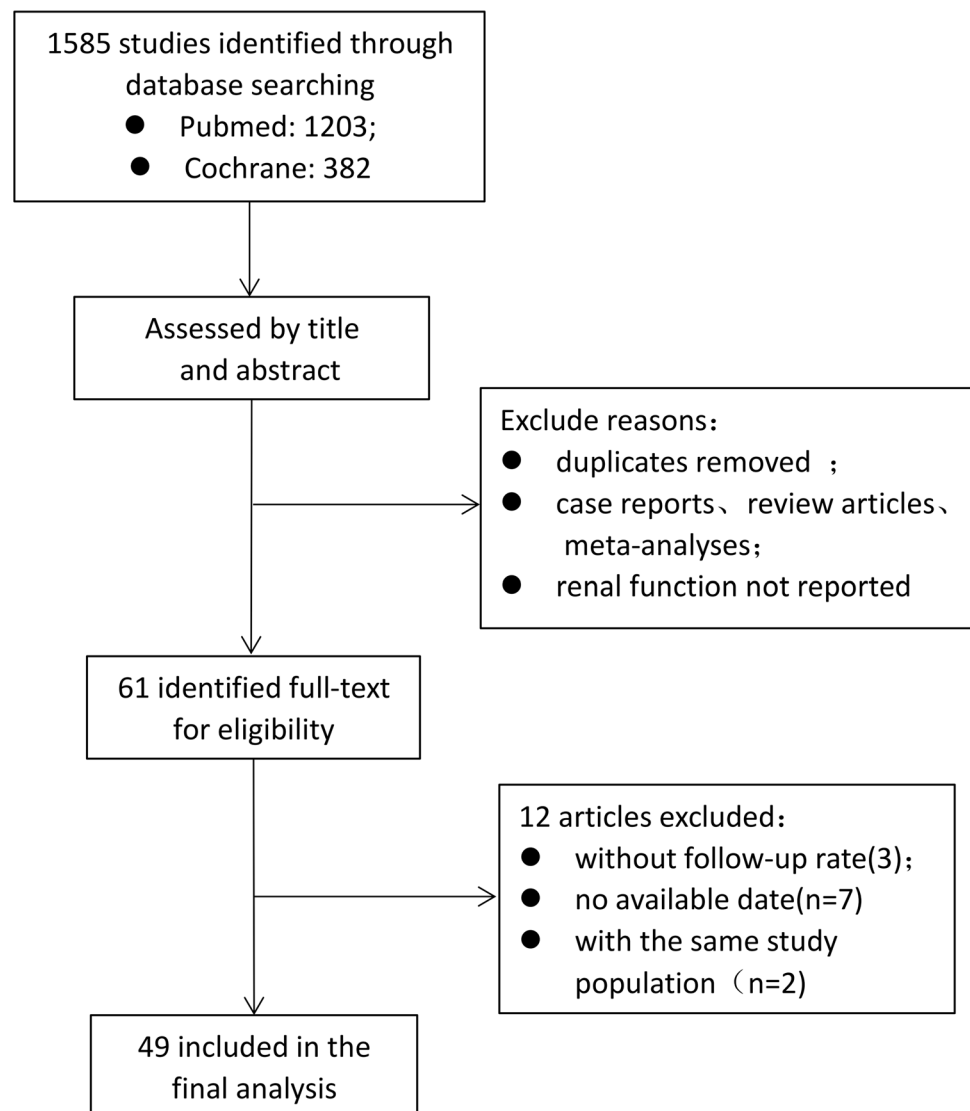


Table 1 General characteristics of included studies

Study	Country	Design	Surgical technique	No. of patients	Female	Age	Baseline BMI	Follow-up	Renal parameters assessed	GFR method
Khalil et al. [19]	Mansoura, Egypt	Prospective observational	LSG	44	29	32.5 ± 8.9	50.6 ± 6.7	6 m	Microalbuminuria, eGFR, serum creatinine	CKD-EPI
Kim and Kim [8]	Seoul, Korea	Retrospective observational	RYGB, SG	136	101	35.9 ± 11.2	39.9 ± 6.3	1 y	eGFR, UACR, UPCR, microalbuminuria, creatinine	MDRD: the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease formula CKD-EPI
Melsaac et al. [17]	Saskatoon, Canada	Observational retrospective cohort	RYGB, LSG	471	380	46 ± 10	47.7 ± 7.8	1–2 y	uACR, eGFR, albuminuria	CKD-EPI
Friedman et al. [18]	USA	Prospective observational	RYGB, LAGB, others	737	520	52 (44–58)	46 (42, 52)	5 y	eGFR, UACR, albuminuria	CKD-EPI equation
Bjornstad et al. [16]	USA	Prospective observational	RYGB	557	422	/	/	1–5 y	eGFR, UACR	FAS combined serum creatinine and cystatin C equation
Brix et al. [20]	Vienna, Austria	Cross-sectional/longitudinal intervention	RYGB, SG, GB	318	245	40 ± 12	45.6 ± 6.6	2 y	Albuminuria, creatinine	/
Saeed et al. [9]	New York, USA	Retrospective	RYGB, SG	2247	2000	37 (18–76)	45 ± 7	3 y	eGFR, UACR, albuminuria, creatinine	NA
Young et al. [21]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB, SG	101	56	53 (± 11)	33.8 (± 8.3)	61 (± 29) m	Albuminuria, uACR, serum creatinine	/
Park et al. [22]	Seoul, South Korea	Prospective cohort study	RYGB, SG	43	40	32 (26–45)	36.9 (34.0–42.8)	6 m	eGFR, uACR, serum creatinine	CKD-EPI
Billeter et al. [23]	German	Prospective	RYGB	20	10	58.6 ± 6.1	32.8 ± 2.1	1–2 y	eGFR, UACR, serum creatinine, cystatin C, CKD-EPI creatinine-cystatin C clearance	MDRD
Nehus et al. [24]	USA	Prospective multicenter	RYGB, SG, LAGB	242	183	17.1	50.5 (45.2, 58.3)	6 m–3 y	eGFR, albuminuria, ACR	Cystatin C-based Larsson formula
Neff et al. [25]	Lille, France	Prospective cohort study	RYGB, LAGB	461	364	43 ± 1 (RYGB)/41 ± 1 (LAGB)	50 ± 1 (RYGB)/47 ± 1 (LAGB)	1–5 y	eGFR	MDRD, CKD-EPI, Cockcroft-Gault formulae

Table 1 (continued)

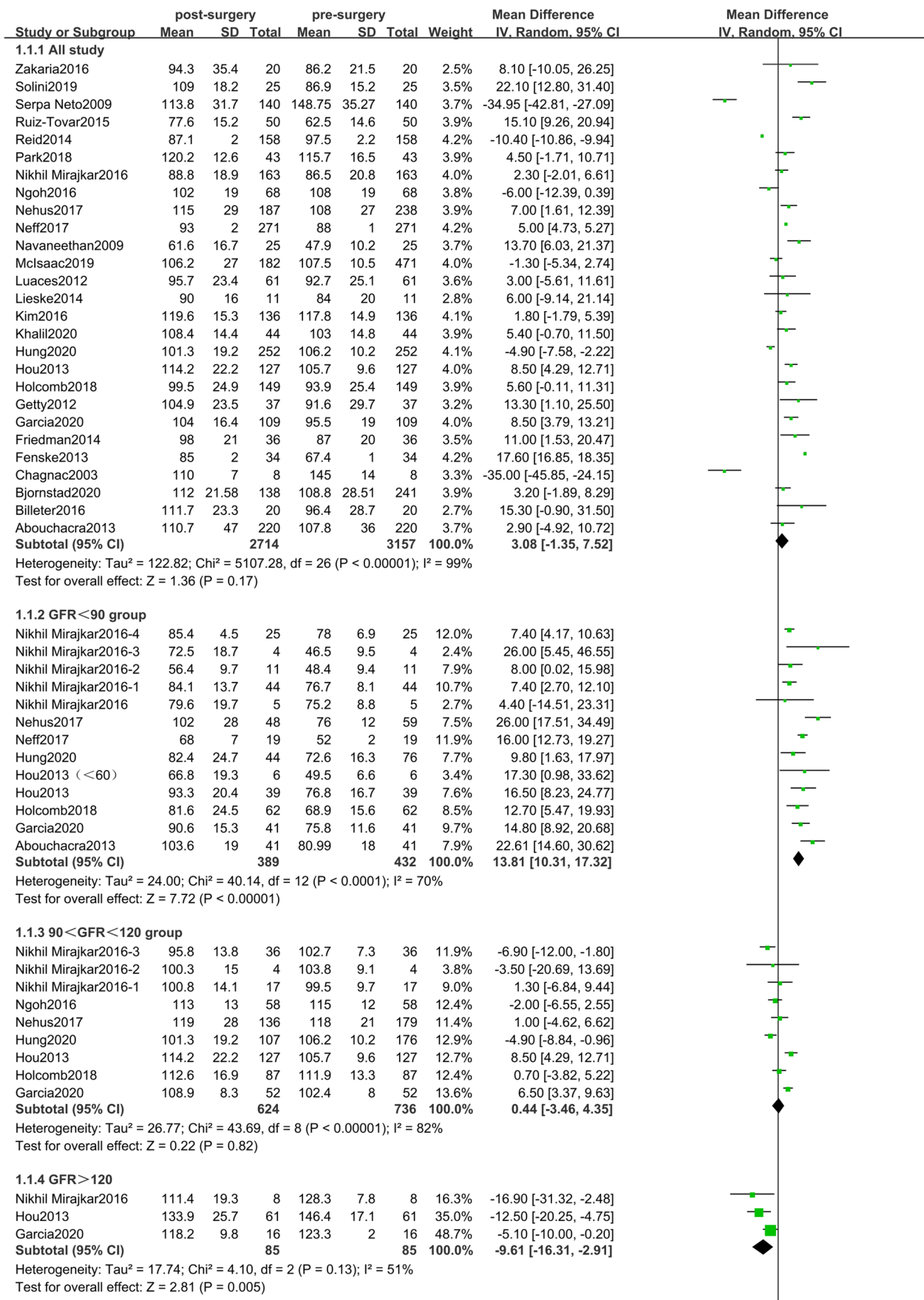
Study	Country	Design	Surgical technique	No. of patients	Female	Age	Baseline BMI	Follow-up	Renal parameters assessed	GFR method
Holcomb et al. [7]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB, SG	149	126	44.3 ± 10.9	48.7 ± 9.1	2 y	eGFR, serum creatinine	CKD-EPI
Garcia et al. [26]	Brazil	Prospective cohort study	RYGB	109	84	38.3 ± 10.3	36.7 ± 3.6	1 y	eGFR, serum creatinine	CKD-EPI
Solini et al. [27]	Italy	Prospective	RYGB	25	19	46.7 ± 12.9	44.8 ± 6.0	1 y	Creatinine, eGFR, mGFR	eGFR: CKD-EPI, mGFR: plasma iohexol clearance
Hung et al. [28]	Taiwan, China	Retrospective cohort study	RYGB, SG, Others	252	139	40.5 ± 11.2	39.0 ± 5.5	1 y	eGFR, serum creatinine	CKD-EPI
Hou et al. [29]	China	Retrospective	RYGB, SG, LAGB, miniGB	233	184	33.1 ± 9.7	39.5 ± 9.7	1 y	Creatinine, eGFR	MDRD 4-variable formula
Mirajkar et al. [30]	UK	Retrospective cohort	RYGB, SG, LAGB	163	109	48.5 ± 8.8	50.8 ± 9.1	1.3–9.9 y	eGFR	MDRD
Reid et al. [31]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB, SG	158	145	40.8 ± 0.9	47.0 ± 0.6	1 y	Creatinine, eGFR, UACR	CG formula modified for obese subjects using lean body weight
Fenske et al. [32]	UK	Prospective	RYGB, SG, LAGB	34	29	35–54 y	44.6 ± 0.9	1 y	Creatinine, cystatin C, eGFR, UACR	MDRD
Navaneethan and Yehert [33]	USA	Retrospective	Any form	25	18	51.5 ± 7.4	49.8 ± 7.5	6–12 m	Creatinine, eGFR	MDRD 4-variable formula
De Paula et al. [34]	Brazil	Prospective RCT	SG	38	11	53.3 ± 7.7	28.9 ± 3.2	> 2 y	Albuminuria	/
Zakaria et al. [35]	Milano, Italy	Retrospective	AGB	20	17	44.7 ± 9.5	42.8 ± 4.9	13.8 ± 2.04 y	eGFR, creatinine	NA
Ngo et al. [36]	Singapore	Retrospective	GB, SG	68	44	40.7 ± 10.8	41.9 ± 5.7	1 y	Creatinine, eGFR	CKD-EPI, CG-LBW, aGFR (absolute GFR) = eGFR by CKD-EPI × BSA
Miras et al. [37]	London, UK	Prospective case-control	RYGB	70	17	50.7 ± 1.0	43.6 (40.6–49.7)	12–18 m	uACR	/
Chagnac et al. [38]	Israel	Prospective cohort	Gastroplasty	8	4	36 ± 2	48.0 ± 2.4	12–17 m	mGFR	Inulin clearance

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Country	Design	Surgical technique	No. of patients	Female	Age	Baseline BMI	Follow-up	Renal parameters assessed	GFR method
Zhang et al. [39]	China	Retrospective	RYGB	101	45	47.6 ± 11.9	30.5 ± 3.05 (DN1); 30.1 ± 2.89 (DN2); 31.7 ± 3.86 (DN3); 31.72 ± 3.20 (DN4)	1 y	mGFR, ACR, 24-h albuminuria, serum creatinine	99mTc-DTPA
Stephenson et al. [40]	Australia	Retrospective	LAGB	23	11	58 ± 9	40.1 ± 5.4	3 y	uACR	/
Abouchaera et al. [41]	United Arab Emirates	Retrospective cohort	Bariatric surgery	220	145	34.7 ± 10	47 ± 9	6 m	eGFR, creatinine	MDRD, CKD-EPI
Amor et al. [42]	Spain	Prospective	RYGB, SG	255	0.71	45.6 ± 10.6	47.7 ± 6	2 y	UACR, creatinine	/
DePaula et al. [43]	Brazil	NA	II-DSG	69	22	51.4 ± 5.6	25.7 ± 1.9	> 1 y	Microalbuminuria	/
Getty et al. [44]	USA	Prospective	RYGB	37	30	47 ± 11	47.6 ± 6.3	6 m	Creatinine, eGFR	MDRD, creatinine clearance, Cockcroft-Gault equation
Saliba et al. [45]	USA	Prospective	RYGB	35	31	T2DM, 45 ± 9; non-T2DM, 42 ± 10	T2DM, 47 ± 8; non-T2DM, 48 ± 8	12 m	Creatinine, eGFR, proteinuria, albuminuria	Creatinine clearance (24-h urine creatinine, plasma creatinine)
Zeve et al. [46]	Brazil	Prospective cohort	RYGB	17	10	Mean 44.9	44.3 ± 1.3	12 m	CrCl, proteinuria, microalbuminuria	Creatinine clearance
Luaces et al. [47]	Spain	Prospective	RYGB, tubular gastrectomy	61	50	41.1 ± 9.8	47.4 ± 5	12 m	Creatinine, eGFR	CG-LBW equation
Jose et al. [48]	UK	Retrospective	BPD	25	17	42.8 ± 11.3	57.3 ± 12.6	3.9 years (2–6)	Creatinine, eGFR	MDRD
Mohan et al. [49]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB	38	34	41 ± 10.3	46 ± 8	1 m	uACR	/
Navaneethan et al. [50]	USA	Prospective	RYGB, SG, LAGB	15	6	51.2 ± 14.3	48.8 ± 9.4	6 m	Creatinine, cystatin C, UACR	/

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Country	Design	Surgical technique	No. of patients	Female	Age	Baseline BMI	Follow-up	Renal parameters assessed	GFR method
Friedman et al. [51]	USA	Prospective	Not mentioned	36	28	50 ± 11	46 ± 9	Mean 10 m	Creatinine, cystatin C, mGFR, eGFR	mGFR: plasma iohexol clearance; eGFR: MDRD, CKD-EPIcreat, CKD-EPIcystC, CKD-EPIcreat-cystC
Lieske et al. [52]	USA	Prospective cohort study	RYGB, BPD	11	11	49.5 ± 11.5	45.7 ± 5.0	12 m	mGFR (iothalamate clearance), eGFR (CKD-EPI), CrCl	mGFR: iothalamate clearance, eGFR: CKD-EPI
Ruiz-Tovar et al. [53]	Spain	Prospective	LSG	50	44	49.2 ± 6.4	48.4 ± 7.7	12 m	Creatinine, eGFR	MDRD
Navarro-Diaz et al. [54]	Spain	Prospective controlled study	Fobi pouch GB, vertical-banded gastroplasty	61	37	41.10 ± 9.07	53.62 ± 9.65	2 y	Creatinine, eGFR, proteinuria, albuminuria	Creatinine clearance
Palomar et al. [55]	Spain	Prospective	BPD	35	6	40.1 ± 11.6	46.9 ± 6.3	12 m	Proteinuria, albuminuria	/
Iaconelli et al. [56]	Italy	Case-control	BPD	22	12	43.8 ± 8.3	50.47 ± 8.46	10 y	24-h albuminuria, creatinine	/
Heneghan et al. [57]	USA	Retrospective cohort	RYGB, SG, AGB	52	39	51.2 ± 10.1	49 ± 8.7	5 y	24-h albuminuria, uACR, creatinine	/
Celik et al. [58]	Netherlands	Retrospective	RYGB	33	31	45.2 ± 8.5	44.6 ± 5.4	21 m	ACR, 24-h albuminuria	/
Schuster et al. [59]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB	813	626	45 ± 10	NA	≥ 2 y	Creatinine	/
Agrawal et al. [60]	USA	Retrospective	RYGB	94	72	45.6 ± 10.5	49.1 ± 8.0	12 m	Creatinine, UACR	/
Serpa Neto et al. [61]	Brazil	Retrospective	RYGB	140	96	18–60	46.17 ± 5.44	8 m	Creatinine, eGFR, proteinuria, albuminuria	Creatinine clearance (24-h urine creatinine, plasma creatinine)



◀Fig. 2 Forest plot comparing GFR between presurgery and postsurgery

Serum Creatinine

A total of 33 studies reported before-and-after changes on serum creatinine; 5 articles were excluded due to their data

were not compatible with other studies. The concentration of serum creatinine decreased in the overall group after BS (MD, -0.07 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.09 to -0.05 mg/dl). Only GFR > 90 subgroup (no CKD subgroup), serum creatinine increased by 0.02 mg/dl (95% CI, 0.00 to +0.04 mg/dl) (Fig. 3). Compared with RYGB (MD, -0.08 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.15 to 0.00 mg/dl), SG (MD, -0.13 mg/dl

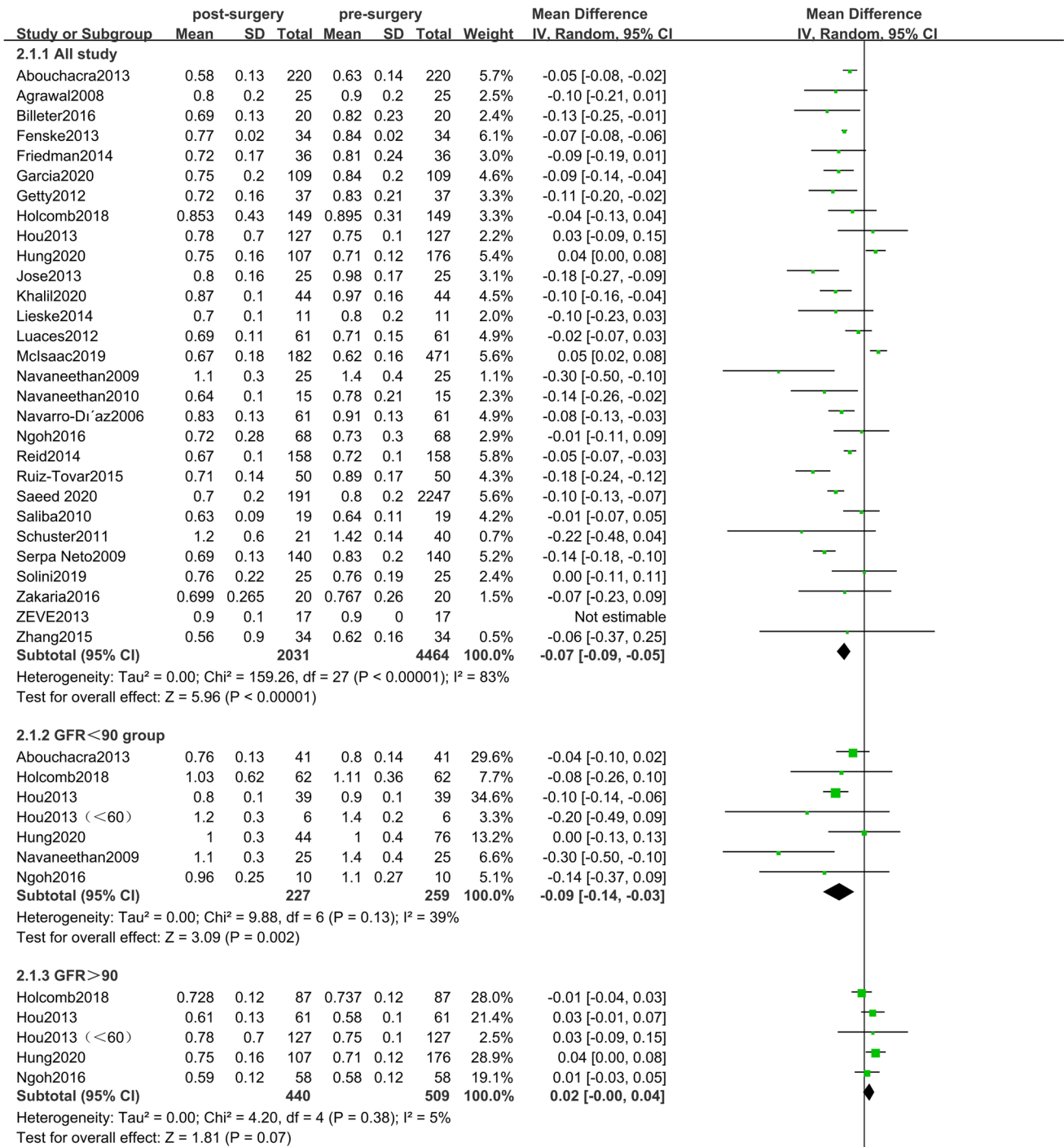


Fig. 3 Forest plot comparing creatinine between presurgery and postsurgery

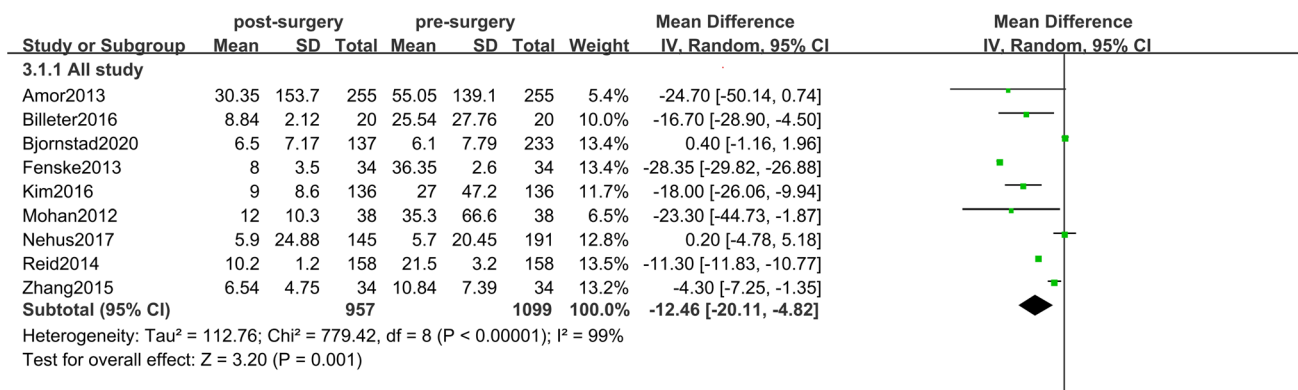


Fig. 4 Forest plot comparing ACR between presurgery and postsurgery

dl; 95% CI, -0.18 to -0.08 mg/dl) has better effect in reducing serum creatinine (Supplemental Fig. 3). There was no significant difference in pre- and post-operative changes of serum creatinine between the two groups of patients with and without diabetes (Supplemental Fig. 3). Although creatinine dropped the most in 3–5 years after BS (MD, -0.11 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.16 to -0.07 mg/dl), it was no significantly decrease (*p* = 0.27) in the following period: 6 months (MD, -0.08 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.12 to -0.04 mg/dl), 1 year (MD, -0.06 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.09 to -0.03 mg/dl), or 2 years follow-up (MD, -0.06 mg/dl; 95% CI, -0.14 to -0.03 mg/dl) (Fig. 7B and Supplemental Fig. 4).

ACR

Only 8 studies with available data were for ACR out of 49 included studies. ACR be slightly increased in 2 out of 8 studies, while reduced in the remaining 6 studies. It had been decreased in the overall group (MD, -12.46 mg/g; 95% CI, -20.11 to -4.82 mg/g) (Fig. 4) and all subgroups after BS. Reductions in ACR were seen after RYGB or SG and in patients with or without diabetes (Supplemental Fig. 5). There was no significant difference in pre- and post-operative changes

of ACR for all subgroups. It also declined most significantly at 1 year (MD, -18.03 mg/g; 95% CI, -27.35 to -8.71 mg/g) and 2 years (MD, -18.20 mg/g; 95% CI, -29.20 to -7.19 mg/g) after BS (Fig. 7C and Supplemental Fig. 6).

Albuminuria

Twenty-three out of 49 studies had albuminuria inspection pre- and post-operative. It had significantly improved in all other studies except for one that did not change. There was a statistically significant reduction in the incidence of albuminuria after bariatric surgery (RR: 0.40, 95% CI: 0.31–0.51, *p* < 0.0001; I² = 71%) (Fig. 5). A decrease in albuminuria was noted after BS (MD, -14.17 mg/day; 95% CI, -22.59 to -5.76 mg/day) (Fig. 6).

Discussion

Evidence from this meta-analysis shows an improvement in renal function after bariatric surgery. First, although the change of GFR was inconsistent in all included studies, it decreased in patients with hyperfiltration while increased

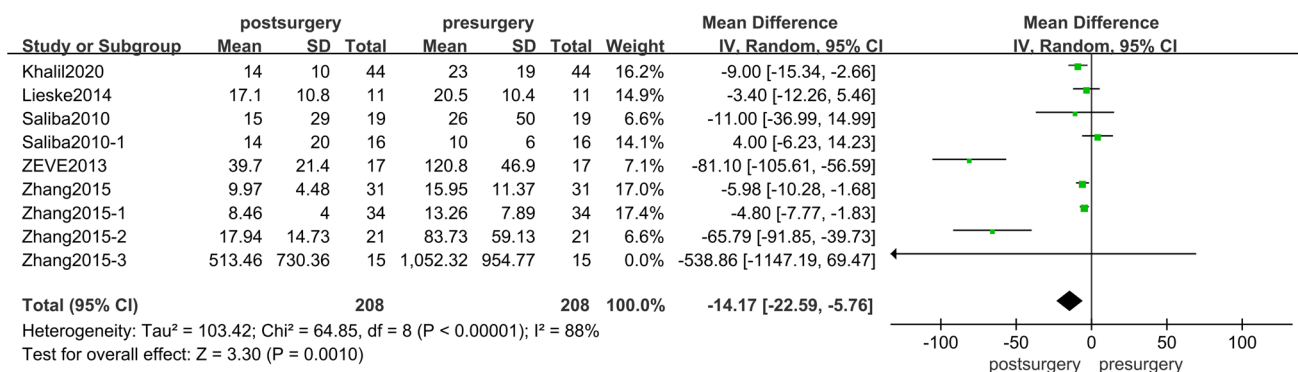


Fig. 5 Forest plot comparing albuminuria between presurgery and postsurgery

in patients with reduced eGFR (CKD). Second, serum creatinine level decreased significantly after BS in the overall group, while it increased slightly in the subgroup with $GFR > 90$. But it still keeps in the normal range. Third, data on changes pre- and post-operative indicated that ACR and albuminuria decreased significantly after bariatric surgery. Fourth, renal function improved the most in 1–2 years after bariatric surgery (Fig. 7).

GFR is the product of functional nephrons' quantity which remains constant after birth and the filtration rate of single nephron [62]. Healthy kidney has functional renal reserve, i.e., not all nephrons are activated in normal physiological states. And some nephrons are in idle state [63]. Early obesity leads to the decrease of functional renal reserve which activated the motionless nephrons. It makes the body show hyperfiltration [64]. Nevertheless, long-term hyperfiltration will reduce the filtration of single nephron declining the total GFR, and eventually leads to kidney damage [65]. Therefore, hyperfiltration may be reversible because of the renal functional reserve. Whether the decrease or increase in post-operative GFR results from an improvement in hyperfiltration or a real renal function is uncertain. It is illogical to judge the effect of bariatric surgery on renal function only

based on the rising and falling of GFR. For obese patients with normal renal reserve function, bariatric surgery was initially to redress the hyperfiltration caused by obesity and maintain the normal number of activated nephrons. So, GFR showed a downward tendency. For patients who activated all nephrons with renal insufficiency and reserve function dysfunction, in this condition, the effect of bariatric surgery on renal function can be truly reflected from the change of total GFR. And the increase in total GFR is necessarily the result of the growing of filtration rate of single nephron. Our meta-analysis demonstrates that bariatric surgery can reduce the GFR of patients with hyperfiltration and increase the GFR of patients with renal insufficiency, which is the favorable evidence for bariatric surgery to enhance renal function.

Serum creatinine levels are usually relatively normal due to renal reserve function until about 50% of nephrons be invalidated or GFR drops to nearly $60 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2$ [66]. Therefore, when $GFR > 60 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2$, serum creatinine is not an accurate indicator of renal function. But the level of serum creatinine to some extent reflects the capability of the kidney to clean up metabolic waste. Serum creatinine is maintained at a normal level, indicating that the renal clearance function can meet the metabolic needs. Moreover,

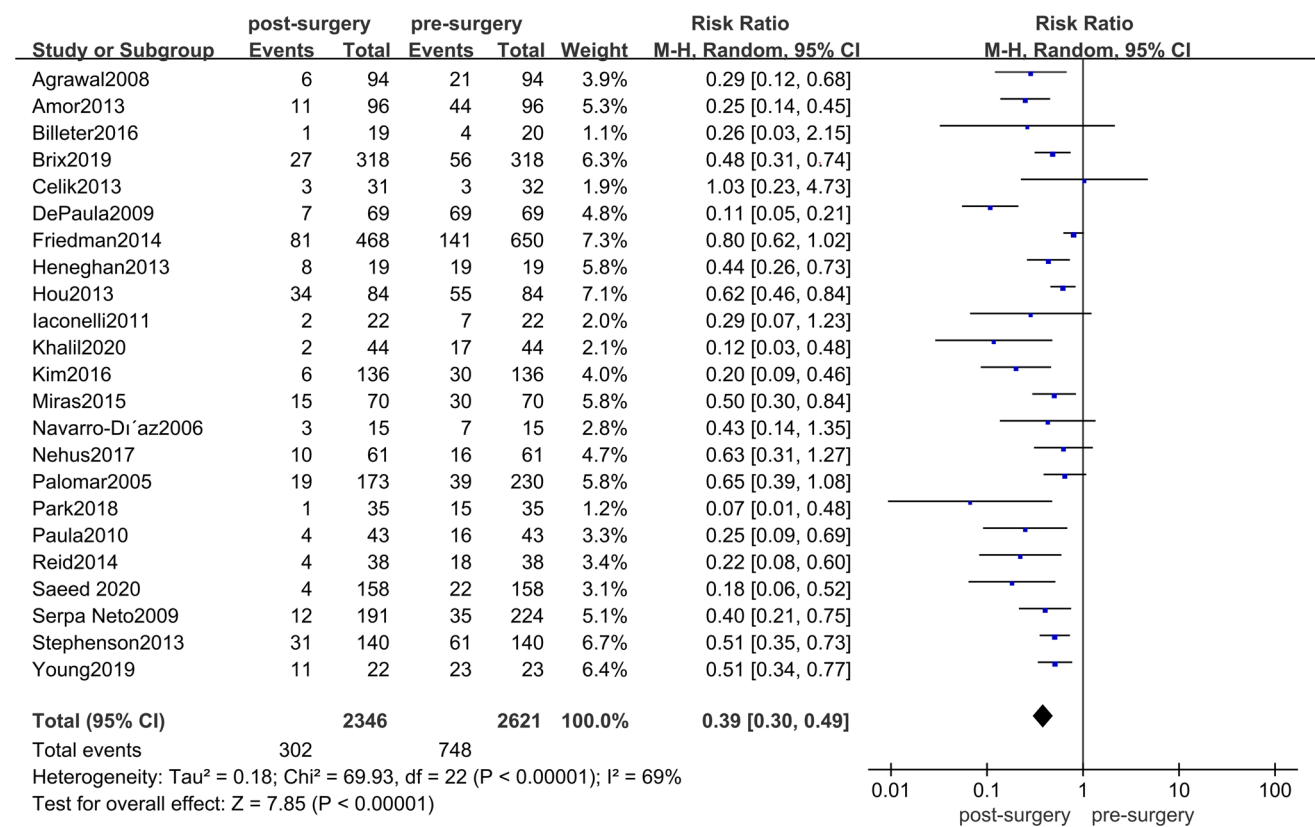
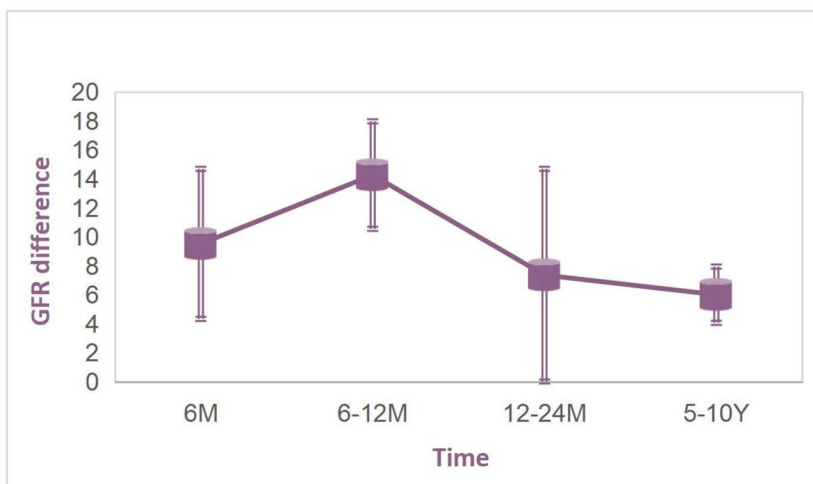
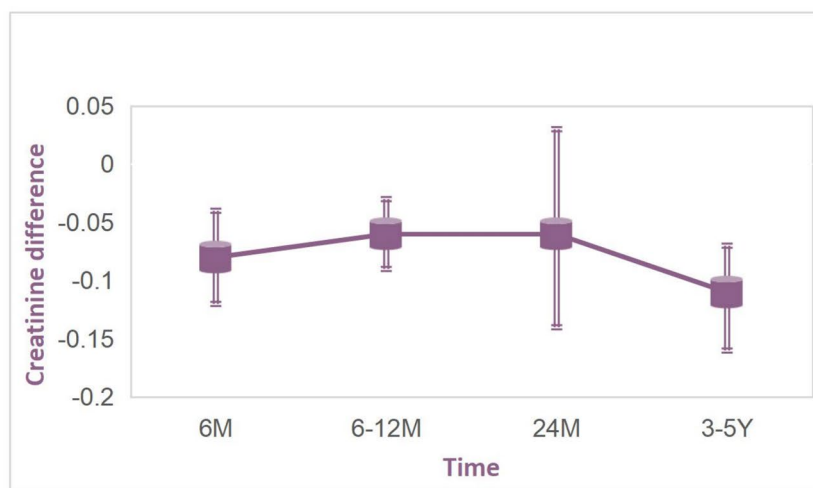


Fig. 6 Forest plot comparing the incidence of albuminuria between presurgery and postsurgery

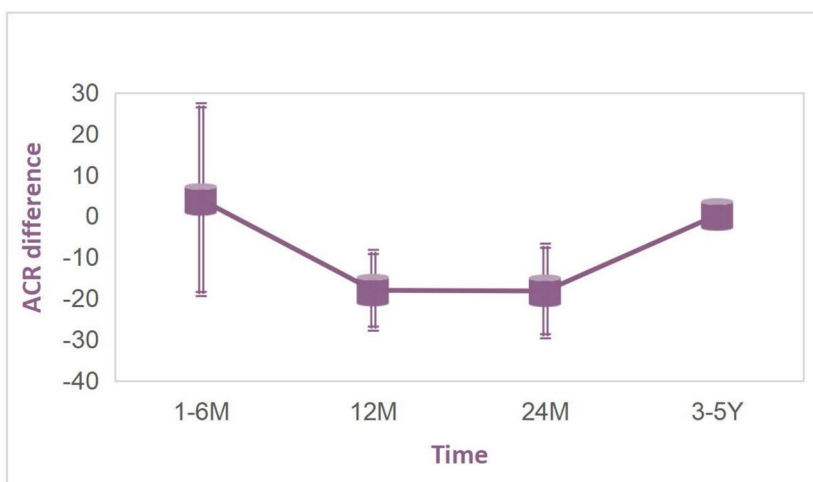
Fig. 7 The changes of renal function after bariatric surgery in different postoperative periods. **A** The GFR difference of preoperative and postoperative in different periods. **B** The creatinine difference of preoperative and postoperative in different periods. **C** The ACR difference of preoperative and postoperative in different periods



A The GFR difference of preoperative and postoperative in different period



B The creatinine difference of preoperative and postoperative in different period



C The ACR difference of preoperative and postoperative in different period

creatinine-based eGFR is not validated in obese individuals because of high muscle quality, which may underestimate renal function in obese individuals [67]. Hence, it is more convincing that the decrease of creatinine level reflects the improvement in renal clearance after BS.

Albuminuria closely relating to all levels of renal function is an important manifestation of renal function damage. There is no question that microalbuminuria is improved after bariatric surgery, whether post-operative remission of pre-operative albuminuria or new onset albuminuria. Compared with non-surgical control group, the post-operative microalbuminuria in the operation group reduced significantly after BS. Our results are consistent with previous studies that the incidence of albuminuria, microalbuminuria level, and uACR decreased after BS.

The weight loss caused by BS is the most significant 1 year after operation. Then, the weight regained in different degrees. The optimal benefit time of bariatric surgery on renal function, however, has not been studied. This study first conducts subgroup analysis based on different follow-up periods after bariatric surgery. Considering the early decline of GFR due to improvement of hyperfiltration in patients with preserved renal reserve function, we only included patients with renal insufficiency (GFR < 90) at baseline in the follow-up subgroup analysis of GFR. The maximum increase of GFR is noted during 6–12 months after BS. And serum creatinine achieved the most noticeable decrease in 3–5 years after BS (although no significant difference). These are inconsistent with the trajectory of weight loss after BS. So, it has yet to be further proved that bariatric surgery can not only benefit from weight loss, but also enhance renal function through other mechanisms.

Our research has some limitations. First, the study is disunity in various literature on the measurement of GFR and whether the GFR is adjusted according to the surface area. Secondly, it is the innovation of this study to explore the optimal benefit time point of renal function after bariatric surgery based on subgroup analysis of follow-up time, but more intuitive research is needed to verify the trajectory of renal function after bariatric surgery. Finally, the conclusion of our article has limited effect, because the included articles are mostly observational single-arm studies and have significant heterogeneity.

Conclusion

Bariatric surgery can improve renal function in obese patients with kidney dysfunction, it reduces the GFR of patients with hyperfiltration and increase the GFR of patients with renal insufficiency, and the incidence of

albuminuria, microalbuminuria level, and uACR decrease after BS. In the future, more intuitive research is needed to investigate the trajectory of renal function after bariatric surgery to verify the optimal postoperative benefit time.

Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11695-021-05630-4>.

Funding This work was supported by the Science and Technology Program of Guangzhou, China (Grant No. 202002020069).

Declarations

Ethics Approval For systematic review and meta-analysis studies, formal consent is not required.

Consent to Participate Does not apply.

Competing Interests The authors declare no competing interests.

References

1. Yun HR, et al. Obesity, metabolic abnormality, and progression of CKD. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2018;72(3):400–10.
2. Silva Junior GB, et al. Obesity and kidney disease. *J Bras Nefrol.* 2017;39(1):65–9.
3. Xu T, Sheng Z, Yao L. Obesity-related glomerulopathy: pathogenesis, pathologic, clinical characteristics and treatment. *Front Med.* 2017;11(3):340–8.
4. Owen JG, Yazdi F, Reisin E. Bariatric surgery and hypertension. *Am J Hypertens.* 2017;31(1):11–7.
5. Climent E, et al. Atherogenic dyslipidemia remission 1 year after bariatric surgery. *Obes Surg.* 2017;27(6):1548–53.
6. Wolfe BM, Kvach E, Eckel RH. Treatment of obesity: weight loss and bariatric surgery. *Circ Res.* 2016;118(11):1844–55.
7. Holcomb CN, et al. Bariatric surgery is associated with renal function improvement. *Surg Endosc.* 2018;32(1):276–81.
8. Kim EY, Kim YJ. Does bariatric surgery really prevent deterioration of renal function? *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(4):856–61.
9. Saeed K, et al. Bariatric surgery improves renal function: a large inner-city population outcome study. *Obes Surg.* 2021;31(1):260–6.
10. Carbone A, et al. Obesity and kidney stone disease: a systematic review. *Minerva Urol Nefrol.* 2018;70(4):393–400.
11. Monda S, et al. The risks of stone diagnosis and stone removal procedure after different bariatric surgeries. *J Endourol.* 2021;35(5):674–81.
12. Zhou X, et al. Impact of bariatric surgery on renal functions in patients with type 2 diabetes: systematic review of randomized trials and observational studies. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(10):1873–82.
13. Li K, et al. Effects of bariatric surgery on renal function in obese patients: a systematic review and meta analysis. *PLoS One.* 2016;11(10):e0163907.
14. Upala S, et al. Bariatric surgery reduces urinary albumin excretion in diabetic nephropathy: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2016;12(5):1037–44.
15. Shulman A, et al. Remission and progression of pre-existing micro- and macroalbuminuria over 15 years after

- bariatric surgery in Swedish obese subjects study. *Int J Obes (Lond)*. 2021;45(3):535–46.
16. Bjornstad P, et al. Five-year kidney outcomes of bariatric surgery differ in severely obese adolescents and adults with and without type 2 diabetes. *Kidney Int*. 2020;97(5):995–1005.
 17. McIsaac M, et al. Long-term impact of bariatric surgery on renal outcomes at a community-based publicly funded bariatric program: the Regina bariatric study. *Can J Kidney Health Dis*. 2019;6:2054358119884903.
 18. Friedman AN, et al. The association between kidney disease and diabetes remission in bariatric surgery patients with type 2 diabetes. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2019;74(6):761–70.
 19. Khalil R, et al. Kidney injury molecule-1: a potential marker of renal recovery after laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. *Kidney Res Clin Pract*. 2020;39(2):162–71.
 20. Brix JM, et al. Albuminuria in patients with morbid obesity and the effect of weight loss following bariatric surgery. *Obes Surg*. 2019;29(11):3581–8.
 21. Young L, et al. Long-term impact of bariatric surgery in diabetic nephropathy. *Surg Endosc*. 2019;33(5):1654–60.
 22. Park S, et al. Bariatric surgery can reduce albuminuria in patients with severe obesity and normal kidney function by reducing systemic inflammation. *Obes Surg*. 2018;28(3):831–7.
 23. Billeter AT, et al. Renal function in type 2 diabetes following gastric bypass. *Dtsch Arztebl Int*. 2016;113(49):827–33.
 24. Nehus EJ, et al. Kidney outcomes three years after bariatric surgery in severely obese adolescents. *Kidney Int*. 2017;91(2):451–8.
 25. Neff KJ, et al. Renal function and remission of hypertension after bariatric surgery: a 5-year prospective cohort study. *Obes Surg*. 2017;27(3):613–9.
 26. Garcia MS, et al. Renal function 1 year after bariatric surgery: influence of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass and identification of pre-operative predictors of improvement. *Obes Surg*. 2020;30(3):860–6.
 27. Solini A, et al. Renal resistive index predicts post-bariatric surgery renal outcome in nondiabetic individuals with severe obesity. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2019;27(1):68–74.
 28. Hung KC, et al. Impact of serum uric acid on renal function after bariatric surgery: a retrospective study. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2020;16(2):288–95.
 29. Hou CC, et al. Improved renal function 12 months after bariatric surgery. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2013;9(2):202–6.
 30. Mirajkar N, et al. The impact of bariatric surgery on estimated glomerular filtration rate in patients with type 2 diabetes: a retrospective cohort study. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2016;12(10):1883–9.
 31. Reid TJ, et al. The effect of bariatric surgery on renal function. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2014;10(5):808–13.
 32. Fenske WK, et al. Effect of bariatric surgery-induced weight loss on renal and systemic inflammation and blood pressure: a 12-month prospective study. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2013;9(4):559–68.
 33. Navaneethan SD, Yehner H. Bariatric surgery and progression of chronic kidney disease. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2009;5(6):662–5.
 34. De Paula AL, et al. Prospective randomized controlled trial comparing 2 versions of laparoscopic ileal interposition associated with sleeve gastrectomy for patients with type 2 diabetes with BMI 21–34 kg/m². *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2010;6(3):296–304.
 35. Zakaria AS, et al. Effects of gastric banding on glucose tolerance, cardiovascular and renal function, and diabetic complications: a 13-year study of the morbidly obese. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2016;12(3):587–95.
 36. Ngoh CLY, et al. Effect of weight loss after bariatric surgery on kidney function in a multiethnic Asian population. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2016;12(3):600–5.
 37. Miras AD, et al. Type 2 diabetes mellitus and microvascular complications 1 year after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass: a case-control study. *Diabetologia*. 2015;58(7):1443–7.
 38. Chagnac A, et al. The effects of weight loss on renal function in patients with severe obesity. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2003;14(6):1480–6.
 39. Zhang H, et al. The short-term remission of diabetic nephropathy after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass in Chinese patients of T2DM with obesity. *Obes Surg*. 2015;25(7):1263–70.
 40. Stephenson DT, et al. Improvement in albuminuria in patients with type 2 diabetes after laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding. *Diab Vasc Dis Res*. 2013;10(6):514–9.
 41. Abouchacra S, et al. GFR estimation in the morbidly obese pre- and postbariatric surgery: one size does not fit all. *Int Urol Nephrol*. 2013;45(1):157–62.
 42. Amor A, et al. Weight loss independently predicts urinary albumin excretion normalization in morbidly obese type 2 diabetic patients undergoing bariatric surgery. *Surg Endosc*. 2013;27(6):2046–51.
 43. DePaula AL, et al. Laparoscopic ileal interposition associated to a diverted sleeve gastrectomy is an effective operation for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus patients with BMI 21–29. *Surg Endosc*. 2009;23(6):1313–20.
 44. Getty JL, et al. Changes in renal function following Roux-en-Y gastric bypass: a prospective study. *Obes Surg*. 2012;22(7):1055–9.
 45. Saliba J, et al. Roux-en-Y gastric bypass reverses renal glomerular but not tubular abnormalities in excessively obese diabetics. *Surgery*. 2010;147(2):282–7.
 46. Zeve JL, et al. Obese patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 undergoing gastric bypass in Roux-en-Y: analysis of results and its influence in complications. *Arq Bras Cir Dig*. 2013;26(Suppl 1):47–52.
 47. Luaces M, et al. The impact of bariatric surgery on renal and cardiac functions in morbidly obese patients. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2012;27(Suppl 4):iv53–7.
 48. Jose B, et al. The effect of biliopancreatic diversion surgery on renal function—a retrospective study. *Obes Surg*. 2013;23(5):634–7.
 49. Mohan S, et al. Early improvement in albuminuria in nondiabetic patients after Roux-en-Y bariatric surgery. *Obes Surg*. 2012;22(3):375–80.
 50. Navaneethan SD, et al. Urinary albumin excretion, HMW adiponectin, and insulin sensitivity in type 2 diabetic patients undergoing bariatric surgery. *Obes Surg*. 2010;20(3):308–15.
 51. Friedman AN, et al. Predicting the glomerular filtration rate in bariatric surgery patients. *Am J Nephrol*. 2014;39(1):8–15.
 52. Lieske JC, et al. Gastric bypass surgery and measured and estimated GFR in women. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2014;64(4):663–5.
 53. Ruiz-Tovar J, et al. Laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy prevents the deterioration of renal function in morbidly obese patients over 40 years. *Obes Surg*. 2015;25(5):796–9.
 54. Navarro-Diaz M, et al. Effect of drastic weight loss after bariatric surgery on renal parameters in extremely obese patients: long-term follow-up. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2006;17(12 Suppl 3):S213–7.
 55. Palomar R, et al. Effects of weight loss after biliopancreatic diversion on metabolism and cardiovascular profile. *Obes Surg*. 2005;15(6):794–8.
 56. Iaconelli A, et al. Effects of bilio-pancreatic diversion on diabetic complications: a 10-year follow-up. *Diabetes Care*. 2011;34(3):561–7.
 57. Heneghan HM, et al. Effects of bariatric surgery on diabetic nephropathy after 5 years of follow-up. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2013;9(1):7–14.
 58. Celik F, et al. The longer-term effects of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery on sodium excretion. *Obes Surg*. 2013;23(3):358–64.
 59. Schuster DP, et al. Effect of bariatric surgery on normal and abnormal renal function. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2011;7(4):459–64.

60. Agrawal V, et al. The effect of weight loss after bariatric surgery on albuminuria. *Clin Nephrol.* 2008;70(3):194–202.
61. Serpa Neto A, et al. Effect of weight loss after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, on renal function and blood pressure in morbidly obese patients. *J Nephrol.* 2009;22(5):637–46.
62. Favre G, et al. Longitudinal assessment of renal function in native kidney after bariatric surgery. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2018;14(9):1411–8.
63. Thomas DM, Coles GA, Williams JD. What does the renal reserve mean? *Kidney Int.* 1994;45(2):411–6.
64. D'Agati VD, et al. Obesity-related glomerulopathy: clinical and pathologic characteristics and pathogenesis. *Nat Rev Nephrol.* 2016;12(8):453–71.
65. Kindgen-Milles D, Slowinski T, Dimski T. New kidney function tests: renal functional reserve and furosemide stress test. *Med Klin Intensivmed Notfmed.* 2020;115(1):37–42.
66. Sharma A, Mucino MJ, Ronco C. Renal functional reserve and renal recovery after acute kidney injury. *Nephron Clin Pract.* 2014;127(1–4):94–100.
67. Kittiskulnam P, et al. The failure of glomerular filtration rate estimating equations among obese population. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(11):e0242447.

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.