



## HEALING AT HOME

### *How to Safely Transition Your Bariatric Surgery Practice to Outpatient*

Amanda Pysher Cox, MD, FACS  
Medical Director of Bariatric Surgery, Reston Hospital Center  
Surgical Consultants of Northern Virginia



## DISCLOSURES

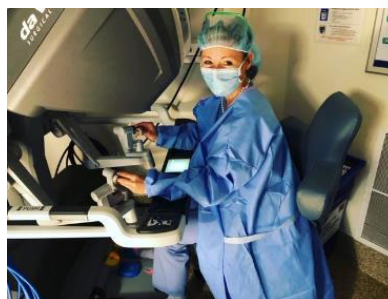
Proctor for da Vinci Surgery

da Vinci Bariatric Case  
Observation site



## WHAT IF I TOLD YOU...

- 80-85% of Bariatric cases could be discharged 4-6 hours after surgery?
- With just Tylenol for pain?
- Without an increase in return to ER within 30 days?
- And that patients actually prefer this on post-discharge surveys?

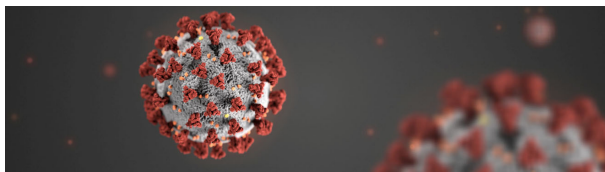


## OR JUST CRAZY?



## MY PUSH FOR OUTPATIENT CASES?

- COVID-19 Era
  - Elective inpatient case shutdown
  - Bed availability / staffing issues
  - Prolonged PACU stays
- Patients do not want to be in the hospital!



## OUTPATIENT SURVEYS

- “Everyone was very knowledgeable and made me feel very confident and comfortable to go home after surgery.”
- “Fives across the board. You are all wonderful!”
- “Everyone was absolutely amazing. So caring and helpful. 10/10 recommend.”
- “Dr. Cox checked in with me often, they all assured me I was in safe hands and I felt safe with them. 5+ thumbs up!”



## HOW DID I START?

- Outpatient Protocol
- Anesthesia and perioperative nursing support
- Outpatient Case Selection Criteria
- Pre-operative Education
- Post-operative Follow Up



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL





## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Pre-op

- Ensure Pre-Surgery Carb Drink drink at 10pm night before and 4 hours before surgery
- Medications administered in pre-op holding:
  - Tylenol 1g PO
  - Celebrex 200mg PO
  - Reglan 10mg IV
  - Pepcid 20mg IV
  - Decadron 4mg IV
  - Weight-based subcutaneous heparin
- Versed as needed
- Open fluids immediately and let full liter get in as quickly as possible



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Induction

- Induction
  - No Fentanyl on induction
  - Esmolol (50-80mg), Lidocaine, Propofol, Rocuronium, Ketamine 50mg
- TAP blocks under ultrasound guidance by anesthesia team after induction



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Intra-op

- Multiple non-narcotic adjuncts to reduce/eliminate need for narcotics
  - Decadron 4mg IV
  - Sevoflurane
  - 1g Mag sulfate
  - Precedex gtt, Lidocaine gtt, another 50mg Ketamine
  - Rocuronium redosing as needed
  - Typically another 1L fluids given (depends on length of case)
- Maximum narcotic dose allowed:
  - Fentanyl 50mcg
  - Most times can be avoided completely



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Wake Up

- 15mg Toradol
- Zofran 4mg
- Reversal
- Sevoflurane off early to facilitate wake-up speed, Precedex gtt continued during closing
- Fentanyl as needed (up to max 50mcg dose)
  - If RR above 25 or other indication of pain



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Post-op

- Recovery room pain control regimen :
  - Tylenol 650mg liquid PO q6h
  - Toradol 15mg IV q6h
  - Lidocaine patch
  - Oxycodone 5mg q4h PRN
- Immediately begin bariatric clear liquids (4oz per hour max)
- Ambulation within 60 minutes
- Over-hydrate!
- Discharge 4-6 hours post-op



## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL

### Over-hydration

- Fluid regimen
  - 250 mL/hour LR immediately on arrival to PACU on fluid pump
  - Continues until discharge
- POD #1 at home
  - Set alarm for 8am
  - Start 4-6 ounces fluid per hour





## OUTPATIENT PROTOCOL At Home


- Narcotic free!
- Pain control regimen
  - Dissolvable pack Tylenol q6h
  - Lidocaine patch OTC
- If they call and are uncomfortable?
  - Gabapentin 300mg q8h PRN
  - Only 5% of patients, mainly sleeves



## OUTPATIENT CASE SELECTION CRITERIA







 **SCNV**  
SURGICAL CONSULTANTS  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

## OUTPATIENT CASE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Start with simple cases!




```
graph LR; A[Sleeve Gastrectomy] --> B[Gastric Bypass]; B --> C[Revision];
```

 **SCNV**  
SURGICAL CONSULTANTS  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA


## WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO GO HOME SAME DAY?

**A**



40F BMI 41 with pre-Diabetes, sleeve gastrectomy, lives 25 min away with 15YO daughter

**B**



35F BMI 65 with HTN and OSA, gastric bypass, lives 2 hours away with husband and 6YO daughter

## WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO GO HOME SAME DAY?




**WHY?**


## OUTPATIENT CASE SELECTION CRITERIA


- Is lower BMI a predictor for success at home?

**NO!!!!!!**

 **SCNV**  
SURGICAL CONSULTANTS  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

## OUTPATIENT CASE SELECTION CRITERIA

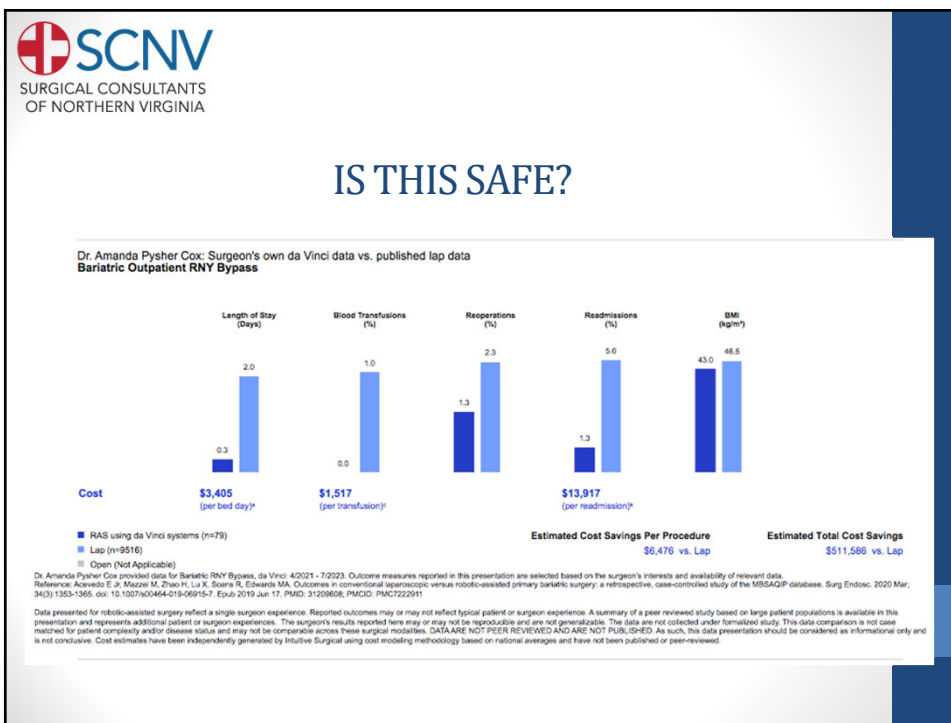
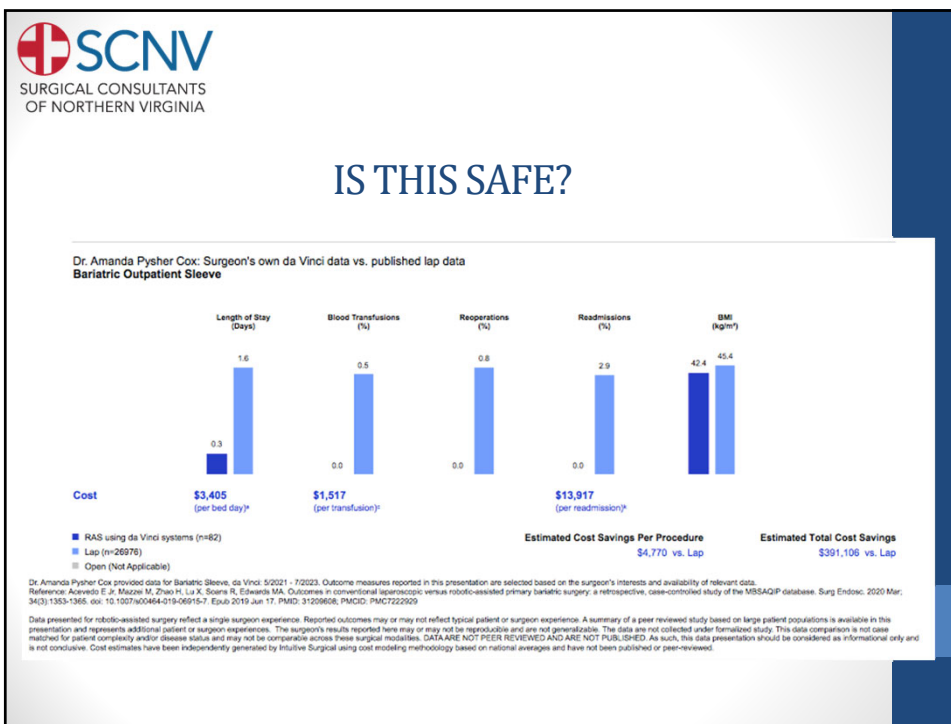
- Predictors for success:
  - MOTIVATED PATIENT 
  - Support at home post-operatively
  - Prior robotic or laparoscopic surgeries (familiar with “gas pain”)
  - Shorter operative time

 **SCNV**  
SURGICAL CONSULTANTS  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

## OUTPATIENT CASE SELECTION CRITERIA


- Consider overnight stay if:
  - Insulin-dependent Diabetic
  - Kidney disease
  - Cardiopulmonary disease
  - Limited social support or lives alone
  - Lives >90 minutes away from hospital

**ANY  
CONCERN  
IN GENERAL**







## PIFTALLS

- Dehydration
- Billing / Reimbursement
- Inadequate pre-op education
- Lack of support person 



## QUESTIONS?

- Email - [drcox@scnv.com](mailto:drcox@scnv.com)
- Follow along online!
  -  Amanda Pysher Cox
  -  drpyshercox

