

**NASH IMPROVEMENT AFTER  
BARIATRIC SURGERY:  
THE ROLE OF BILE ACID SIGNALING**



Rohit Kohli, MBBS, MS  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology, & Nutrition

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Disclosures**

I have the following relationships to disclose:

- Ethicon Endo Surgery Inc.
- Galectin Pharmaceuticals
- Synageva Biopharma/Alexion
- Raptor Pharmaceuticals
- Lumena/Shire

*I will be discussing off-label use of medications in my presentation*

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

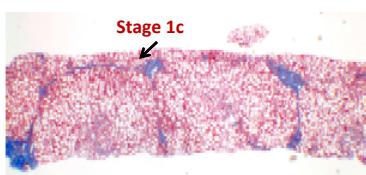
---

---

---

## Pediatric NASH is real!

January  
2009  
Age 10



---

---

---

---

---

---

### **The Big Question:**

**What are the treatment options for NASH?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **NASH Therapeutics**



Lifestyle



Lifestyle

---

---

---

---

---

---

*What if all this does **not** work?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

### NASH Therapeutics



---

---

---

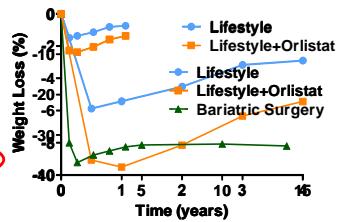
---

---

---

### Weight Loss Interventions

- Lifestyle
- Drug therapy
- **Bariatric surgery**



Annals of Surgery 222(3):339-501995 (1995)  
Diabetes Care 27(1):155-61 (2004)

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Severe NASH now considered indication for surgery in adolescents

### Selection criteria for adolescent weight loss surgery

#### BMI Comorbidities

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| > 35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type 2 DM</li> <li>moderate-severe OSA (AHI <math>\geq</math> 15 events/hr)</li> <li>pseudotumor cerebri</li> <li>severe NASH</li> </ul>   |
| > 40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild OSA (AHI &gt; 5 events/hr)</li> <li>HTN</li> <li>Insulin resistance/IGT</li> <li>Dyslipidemia</li> <li>impaired QOL or ADL</li> </ul> |

Pratt, JSA et al. Obesity 2009; 17:901

## Common Bariatric Surgery Procedures



Gastric Bypass



Gastric Banding



Sleeve Gastrectomy

Kohli et al, J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 98(4):E708-12. (2013)  
Steinart et al, Obesity. 21(12) E660-668. (2013)

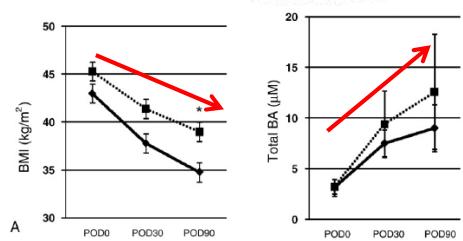
## Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy



Myronovych, Kohli et al *Obesity* (2014)

Serum bile acid along with plasma incretins and serum high-molecular weight adiponectin levels are increased after bariatric surgery

Hiroshi Nakatani<sup>a</sup>, Kazunori Kasama<sup>b</sup>, Takashi Oshiro<sup>b</sup>, Mitsuhiro Watanabe<sup>a</sup>,  
*Metabolism Clinical and Experimental* 58 (2009) 1400–1407

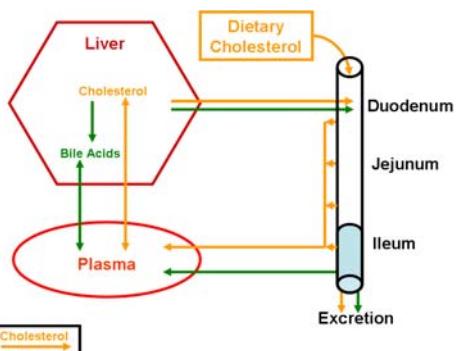


Body mass index is decreasing and, on the contrary, fasting total serum bile acid levels are increasing after bariatric surgery.

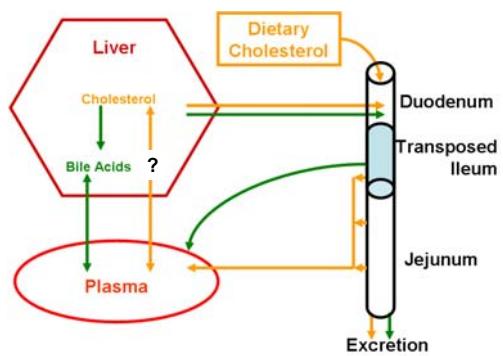
*Metabolism* 58(10):1400-7 (2009)

**How can we study this BA phenomenon in Bariatric Surgery?**

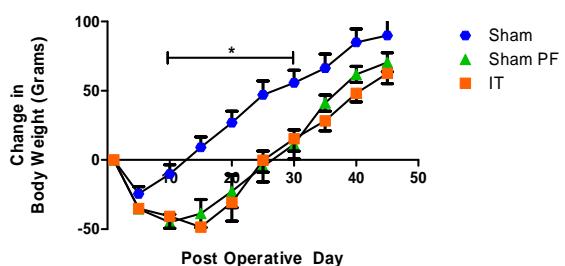
### Normal Enterohepatic Circulation



### Altered Enterohepatic Circulation



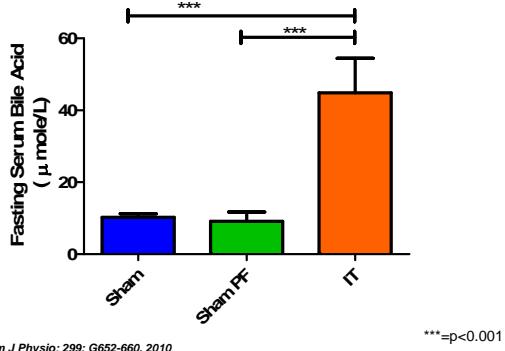
### Results: Change in Body Weight



Kohli et al Am J Physiol; 299: G652-660, 2010

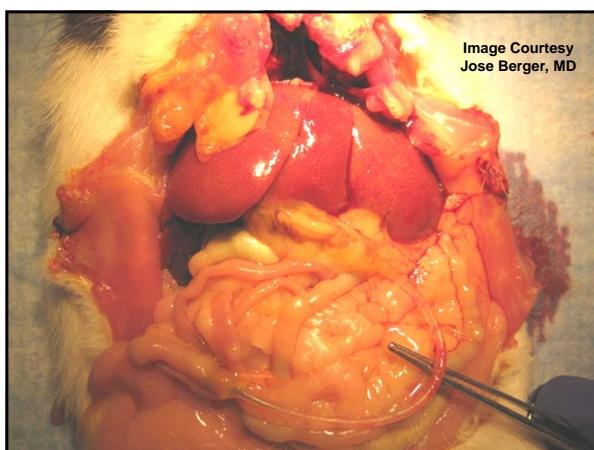
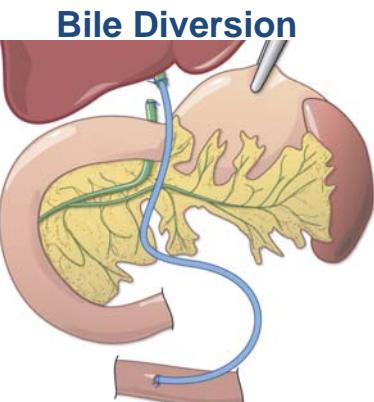
$* = p < 0.05$

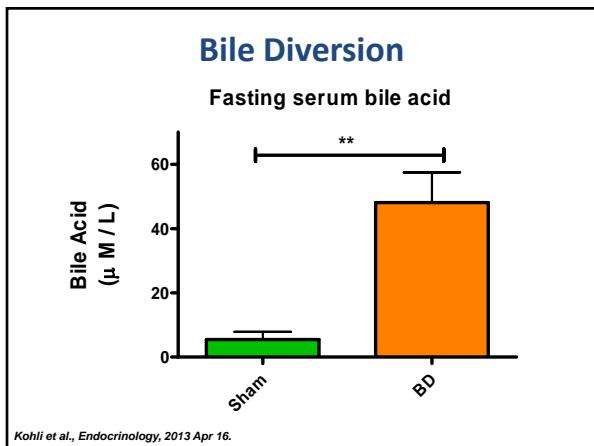
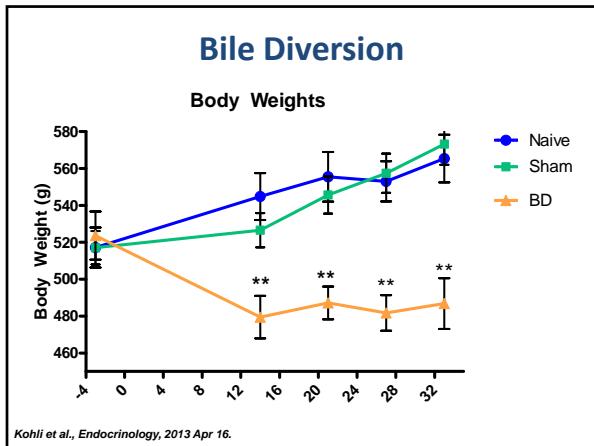
## Results: Serum Bile Acids



Kohli et al Am J Physiol, 299: G652-660, 2010

\*\*\*=p<0.001





### IT and BD Study - Conclusions

- IT and BD surgery in rat models
  - Reproduces the metabolic benefits of bariatric surgery
  - Loss of fat mass
  - Improvement in insulin sensitivity
  - Increases GLP-1 and **Serum Bile Acids**

**Do these procedures impact bile acid composition?**

---

---

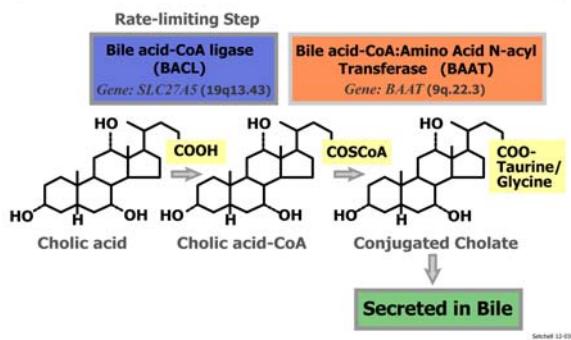
---

---

---

---

### Bile Acid Conjugation - Final Step in Bile Acid Synthesis



---

---

---

---

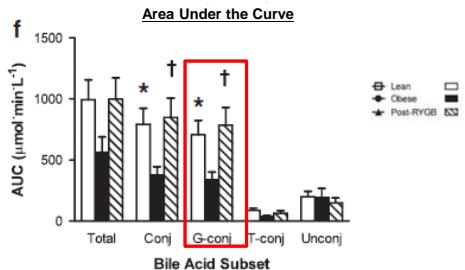
---

---

Roux-en-Y gastric bypass normalizes the blunted postprandial bile acid excursion associated with obesity

International Journal of Obesity (2013), 1–7

NN Ahmad<sup>1,2</sup>, A Pfalzer<sup>1,2</sup> and LM Kaplan<sup>1,2</sup>



---

---

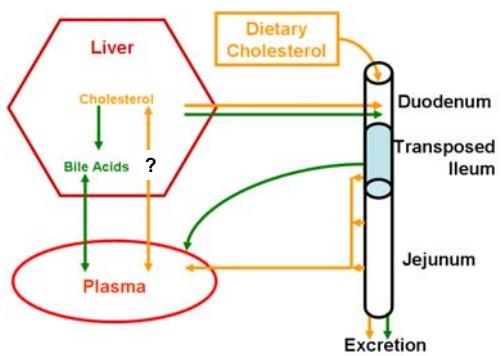
---

---

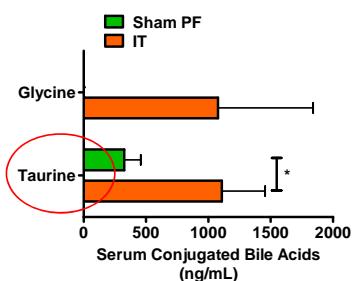
---

---

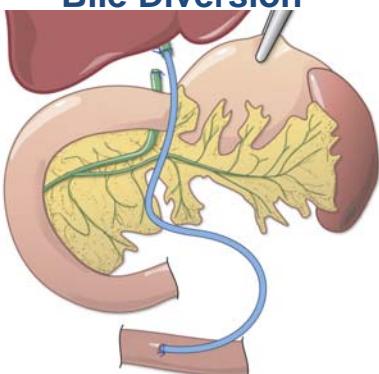
### Altered Enterohepatic Circulation

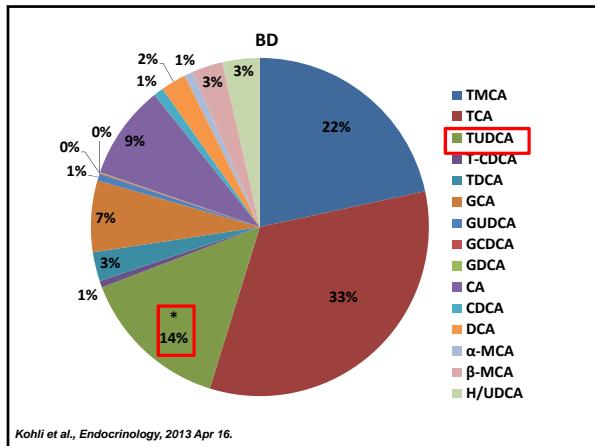


### Results: Serum Bile Acids

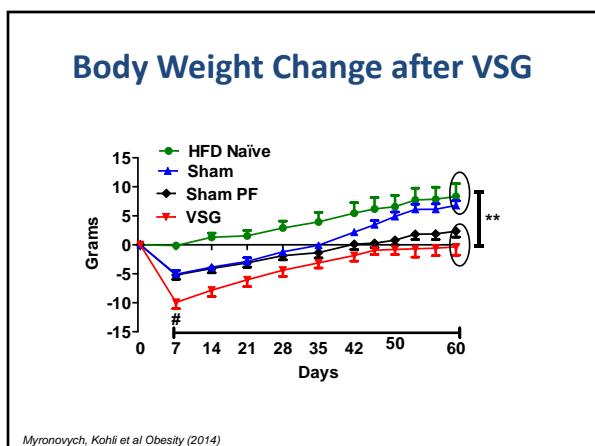


### Bile Diversion

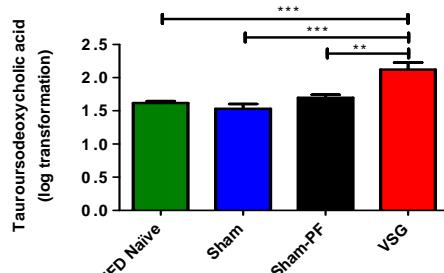




So what about the  
“*established*”  
*bariatric procedures?*



### TUDCA is higher after VSG

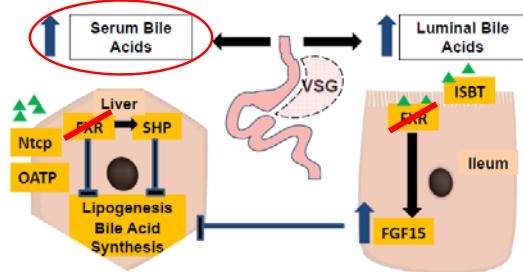


Myronovych, Kohli et al Obesity (2014)

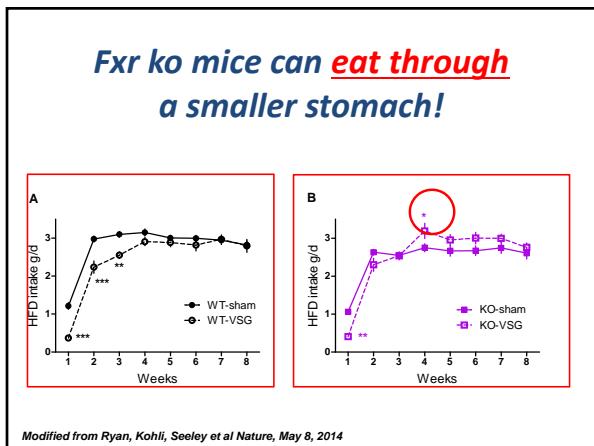
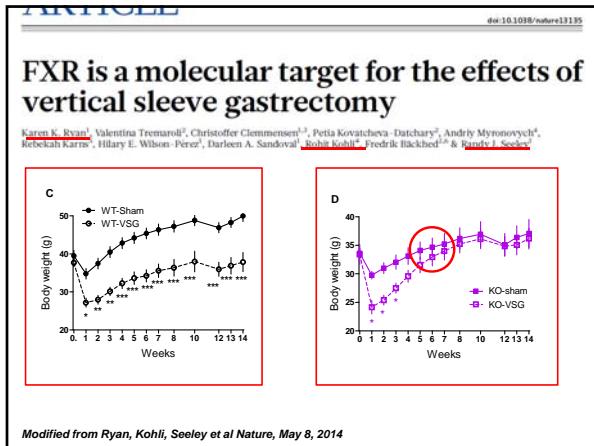
*So why not just give TUDCA or GUDCA?*

Bile Acid Diarrhea!

### Bile Acid-FXR Pathway

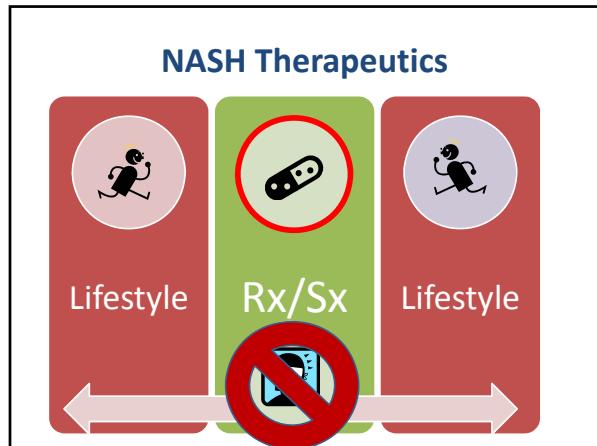


Modified from Myronovych, Kohli et al Obesity 2014; 22 (2) 390-400.



**So is that it?**

**Is FXR the answer?**



**Articles**

Farnesoid X nuclear receptor ligand obeticholic acid for non-cirrhotic, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (FLINT): a multicentre, randomised, placebo-controlled trial

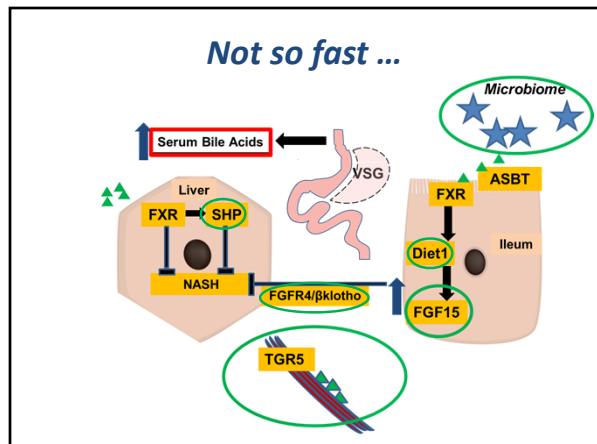
Prof Brent A Neuschwander-Tetri, MD<sup>1</sup>, Rohit Loomba, MD, Prof Anum J Sanyal, MD, Prof Joel E Lavine, MD, Mark L Van Natta, MHS, Maral F Abdellalek, MD, Prof Naga Chalasani, MD, Srinivasan Dasarathy, MD, Prof Anna Mae Diehl, MD, Bilal Hamed, MD, Prof Kris V Kowley, MD, Prof Arthur McCullough, MD, Prof Norah Terrault, MD, Prof Jeanne M Clark, MD, Prof James Tonascia, PhD, Prof Elizabeth M Brunt, MD, David E Kleiner, MD, Edward Doo, MD, for the NASH Clinical Research Network<sup>2</sup>

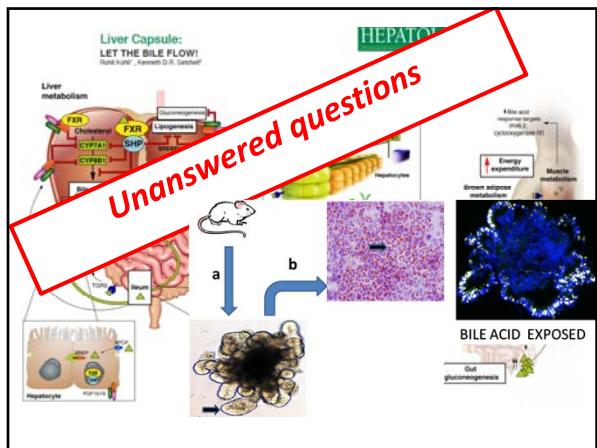
[www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com) Vol 385 March 14, 2015

**Obeticholic acid (OCA)**  
improved the histological features of NASH in adults

but

1. Safety of OCA use for NASH needs further clarification:
  - Decrease HDL
  - Increase LDL
2. NO Pediatric Data on OCA in NASH





NIDDK- K08, R01  
Ethicon Endo-Surgery  
NASPGHAN Takeda  
Prof. Kliewer, UTSW  
Prof. Li Wang, Utah

## Questions?