ViSiGi 3D™ vs. Bougie Dilator for Sleeve Gastrectomy Calibration

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Bariatric surgical procedures are rapidly becoming some of the most commonly performed in the field of general surgery. The laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy is gaining popularity as an effective weight loss tool. Sleeve gastrectomy involves resection of 70% of the stomach leaving a narrow tube referred to as a “sleeve” (Fig. 1). The sleeve gastrectomy helps patients lose weight in two ways: the first being restricting volume of oral intake and the second being reduction in the “hunger hormone” ghrelin by removal of the gastric fundus where the hormone is produced. The calibration of the sleeve has traditionally been accomplished with the use of a weighted bougie dilator (Fig. 2). The surgeon then staples along the edge of the dilator to create the sleeve. A new alternative for calibration is the ViSiGi 3D suction calibration system (Fig. 3).