Prophylactic Negative Pressure Wound Therapy and Wound Complication After Cesarean Delivery in Women With Class II or III Obesity
A Randomized Controlled Trial

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1. In this randomized trial, women were recruited prior to labor, but were randomized during skin closure. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having these two components of the study at different times.

2. Surgical technique, including skin closure, was not standardized. Discuss how this might introduce bias into the study. What was done to minimize this bias? Was it enough?

3. In your practice, do you prefer staple or suture closure for cesarean incisions? Is this influenced by the maternal body mass index or body habitus? Discuss the pros and cons of staple compared with suture closures.

4. Discuss why the authors chose to study women with a body mass index of 35 or higher at delivery as opposed to all women undergoing cesarean delivery?

5. In order to account for women who may have been lost to follow-up, the authors used a method of imputing missing data. Discuss whether you think this is a reliable way to handle missing data.

6. The authors did not reach their planned sample size. In general, what type of error could result from having an underpowered study with negative results? Would your answer differ if they had found a significant difference in the primary outcome between the two groups?

7. How did the authors address the low sample size in their analysis?

8. In their power analysis, the authors assumed there would be a 20% rate of surgical site infection in the control group, but in the study they only had a 10% rate. Discuss why this discrepancy might have occurred and how this could have influenced their results.