Reviewer1: (AF)  
The work is excellent and suitable for the new era in weight reduction protocols, but some questions should be answered: -  
1- What types of weight reduction operations (gastric sleeve, bypass, or both)?

Response: sleeve gastrectomy  
2- Did the case group take multivitamins after the operation? What was the compliance?

Response: No, they didn’t receive multivitamins  
3- Did the case group complain of any chronic diseases?

Response: No, it was mentioned in exclusion criteria

4- Did the control group perform weight reduction operations but healthy or did not make operations?  
Response: the control group performed a weight reduction operation but not anemic and collected from the outpatient clinic

5- The grammar and punctuation marks should be revised.

Response: English editing was performed  
Reviewer 2: (NF)  
1. In your title, which type of anemia?

Response: Iron deficiency anemia and iron profile was added to tables  
2. Method: exclude hematological disease. Can these patients undergo bariatric surgery, or do you mean those who develop it after surgery?

Response: we meant after surgery. We select the participants after surgery  
3. If you mean iron deficiency, you didn't mention the iron profile.

Response: added to the tables

4. miRNA, which type was expressed?  
Response: Let-7b

Reviewer3: (AF)  
1- Add the aim of the study at the end of the introduction section.

Response: added  
2- How was the sample size calculated? What is the power of study?

Response: calculated by Epi info 7 with the power 80% and CI 95%.   
3- How matching was done?

Response:  
4- Why don't you add a correlation of mIR-Let-7b with other parameters? It can be informative here for iron and copper to determine factors correlated to them and linear regression analysis to determine independent predictors. Are there any other factors related to operation that can affect patients? I think more details are needed.

Response: correlation with iron profile was added  
5- Does it affect anthropometric data? Role of diet, postop complications?

Response: The data were already collected. It will be taken into consideration in future research.   
6- Do patients receive supplementation or not? I think there are lots of confounders that should be mentioned.

Response: No, the patients who were selected didn’t receive supplements not to affect their gene expression profile  
7- What does star here refer to? Add meaning in a footnote.  
‎ Response: not clear

Editor Comments to Author:  
1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

Response: done  
2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

Response: done  
3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

Response: done  
4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:  
a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.  
b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.  
c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al.  
Response: done

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.  
Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

Response: done  
6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

Response: done  
7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.

Response: not applicable