

Psychologist and bariatric treatment of obesity

PhDr. Jitka Herlesová

Tutor: PhDr. Tamara Hrachovinová, CSc.

Abstract

The aim of the dissertation thesis is to map psychosocial characteristics associated with obesity and their changes after bariatric surgery.

The Empirical part follows the points settled in the Theoretical part. Obesity is a disease, whose prevalence rises. Bariatric and metabolic surgery is one of the most effective treatment of obesity and its comorbidities. The mental diseases are associated with high levels of obesity. The standard part of pre-bariatric examination is the psychological assessment. Several changes accompany the weight loss after bariatric surgery, such as normalization of psychosocial functioning, the decrease of mental disorders but in some cases the changes might be also negative.

The Empirical part focuses on the psychosocial characteristics of bariatric surgery candidates assessed during the psychological evaluation and the changes after operation. The data from semi-structured psychological interview, Three factor eating questionnaire, Beck Depression Inventory-II, Obesity Weight Loss Quality of Life and Weight Related Symptom Measure were evaluated. The changes after surgery were assessed after 6, 12 and 24 months. Statistically significant differences were ascertained at 6 months at all measured parameters. At 12 months the levels stayed stable and at 24 months some parameters changed in opposite direction than after 6 months.

Key words: obesity; the surgical treatment of obesity; bariatric and metabolic surgery; psychopathology associated with obesity; psychological assessment before bariatric surgery; Three factor eating questionnaire (TFEQ); quality of life; OWLQOL; WRSM; Beck depression inventory – II (BDI-II)