

**BEYOND THE SCALE**

Obesity Medicine in Primary Care

- Raghuveer Vedala, MD, FAAFP
- Primary Care Family Medicine
- Norman Regional Health Systems

**EXPLORE**  
HEALTHCARE SUMMIT

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**Vital Visions**  
The Vedala Brothers Podcast

**NORMAN REGIONAL – SOUTH OKC PRIMARY CARE**

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**ABOM DIPLOMATE PROGRAM**

**AMERICAN BOARD OF OBESITY MEDICINE**

**CERTIFYING PHYSICIANS**  
*in the treatment of obesity*

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## DISCLOSURES

• I have none...





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## OBJECTIVES

Explain	Discuss	Evaluate	Describe	Identify	Discuss
Explain the diagnostic criteria and staging for obesity in adults and pediatrics, including the use of BMI and waist circumference measurements.	Discuss the common comorbidities associated with obesity, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and sleep apnea.	Evaluate the effectiveness of different interventions for the management of obesity in adults and pediatrics, including lifestyle modifications, pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery.	Describe the various pharmacotherapy options available for the treatment of obesity in adults and pediatrics, including their mechanisms of action and potential side effects.	Identify the indications and contraindications for bariatric surgery in patients with obesity, and understand the potential benefits and risks of these procedures.	Discuss the various bariatric surgery procedures available, including their indications, contraindications, and potential complications.



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## DONNA M.

Donna is a 42-year-old African American female presenting to your clinic. She has history of GERD, HTN, and prediabetes. She recently moved here from Indiana and is just looking to establish care, get refills on her medications, and set up her annual Mammogram.

On her vital signs you noticed that her weight is 203 lbs and her BMI is 36.

Based on this information, which of the following diagnoses would you assign this patient?

- A.) Overweight
- B.) Class I Obesity
- C.) Morbid Obesity
- D.) Fabulous



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**DIAGNOSIS AND STAGING**

Note: BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight (in kilograms) by their height (in meters) squared. A BMI calculator can be used to determine an individual's BMI based on their height and weight.

BMI Category	Classification of Obesity	Comorbidity Risk
Below 18.5	Underweight	Low*
18.5 to 24.9	Normal weight	Average
25.0 to 29.9	Overweight	Increased
30.0 to 34.9	Class I obesity	Moderate
35.0 to 39.9	Class II obesity	Severe
40.0 and above	Class III obesity	Very Severe

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**WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE**

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Risk of Comorbidity Adjusted for Waist Circumference		
BMI Classification	Adiposity-Related Risk by Waist Circumference Factor	
	Men $\leq 56$ in (142 cm) Women $\leq 35$ in (88 cm)	Men $> 40$ in (103 cm) Women $> 35$ in (88 cm)
Overweight	Increased	High
Class I Obesity	High	Very High
Class II Obesity	Very High	Very High
Class III Obesity	Extremely High	Extremely High

Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; in = inches; cm = centimeters.

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### Weight-Related Complications Caused or Exacerbated by Excess Adiposity\*

Hypertension	Dyslipidemia	Cardiovascular Disease
Diabetes Mellitus	Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Depression
PCOS, Female Infertility, & Male Hypogonadism	NAFLD & Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis	Asthma & Reactive Airway Disease
Osteoarthritis	Urinary Stress Incontinence	GERD

\*Obesity Management Learning Hub™ Obesity Management Learning Hub | ACP/AAFP, 15 Nov 2022. <http://www.aaonline.org/digital-information/clinical-medicine/products/obesitymanagementlearninghub>

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HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ASSESS PATIENTS IN THE OFFICE



HOW TO MEASURE YOUR WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE

How to Measure Your Waist Circumference™ | RxAdv | YouTube 5 Nov 2020. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q33mzD2M4>. Accessed 5 Aug 2023.

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### OBESITY ICD 10 CODES

When coding for obesity, codes for both the obesity diagnosis (as well as BMI)

**Obesity codes:**

- E66.1 Drug-induced obesity
- E66.2 Severe obesity with alcohol hypoadiponization
- E66.3 Overweight
- E66.8 Other obesity
- E66.9 Obesity, unspecified

**Obesity codes that should be avoided:**

- E66.0 Obesity due to anorexia nervosa
- E66.01 Severe obesity due to excess caloric intake
- E66.02 Other obesity due to excess caloric intake

**BMI Codes: Z91.xx**

- Z91.20-Z91.3 Body mass index (BMI) 20-29.9, adult
- Z91.30-Z91.39 Body mass index (BMI) 30.0-39.9, adult
- Z91.4 Body mass index (BMI) 40 or greater, adult
- Z91.41 Body mass index (BMI) 40.0-44.9, adult
- Z91.42 Body mass index (BMI) 45.0-49.9, adult
- Z91.43 Body mass index (BMI) 50.0-59.9, adult
- Z91.44 Body mass index (BMI) 60.0-69.9, adult
- Z91.45 Body mass index (BMI) 70 or greater, adult

**Counseling codes you may use also include:**

- Z71.4 Dietary counseling and surveillance
- Z71.89 Other specified counseling (including exercise counseling)

\*ICD 10 Codes for Obesity Management™ | RxAdv | Obesity Management | [www.aap.org/primary-care/obesity/2018/09/19/ICD10\\_Codes.pdf](https://www.aap.org/primary-care/obesity/2018/09/19/ICD10_Codes.pdf). Accessed 5 Aug 2023.

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TOM H.

- Tommy H is a 38-year-old Indian-American male presenting to your clinic to establish care. He has also just moved here from India, and it seems that Tom and another patient you saw today likely know each other. It seems that Thursdays are for some reason important to them.
- Tommy has no chronic conditions and says all he needs from you is an "Executive Physical." You notice on his Vitals that his BMI is elevated at 32. You mention this to Tommy to which he responds -- "I work out all the time, my body is just AWESOME at being humble"
- How would you approach discussing Tom's weight with him? What advice would you give him moving forward?

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TALKING WEIGHT

- Proactivity
- Permission
- Language
- Open Communication



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THE OBESITY FOCUSED HISTORY

- Open-ended questions
- Weight trajectory
- Current Diet, Exercise, Sleep
- Comorbidities
- Prior weight loss attempts
- Expectations
- Psychosocial factors
- Med List

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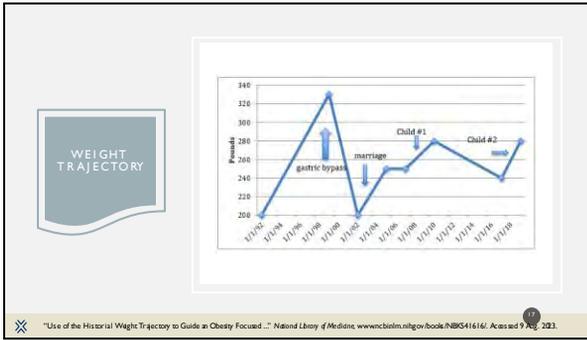
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## BASIC NUTRITION PRINCIPLES

- Refer to Dietician
- Long term weight loss requires Sustained Lifestyle Change
- Individualize to your patient
- Balance Caloric Restriction with Food Quality
- Promote Healthy Dietary Choice
- Incorporate Mindfulness
- Incorporate Records

\*Nutrition Calculator Inc. https://www.dietdoctor.com/nutrition-calculator/

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## CALORIC RESTRICTION

**BMR Calculator**

The Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR) Calculator estimates your basal metabolic rate—the amount of energy expended while at rest in a neutrally temperate environment, and in a post absorptive state (meaning that the digestive system is inactive, which requires about 12 hours of fasting).

US Units  Metric Units  Other Units  **Result**

Age:  ages 15 - 85

Gender:  male  female

Height:    Feet/Inches

Weight:  Pounds

**BMR = 1,675 Calories/day**

Daily calorie needs based on activity level

Activity Level	Calories
Sedentary (little or no exercise)	2,010
Exercise 1.0 times/week	2,203
Exercise 3.0 times/week	2,633
Daily exercise or intense exercise 3-4 times/week	2,898
Intense exercise 5-7 times/week	2,989
Very intense exercise daily, or physical job	3,132

Exercise: 15-30 minutes of elevated heart rate activity.  
Intense exercise: 45-90 minutes of elevated heart rate activity.  
Very intense exercise: 2+ hours of elevated heart rate activity.

\*Nutrition Calculator Inc. https://www.dietdoctor.com/nutrition-calculator/

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**USE YOUR PHONE!**

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### EVIDENCE BASED DIETS

- Meal Based
- Intermittent Fasting
- Mediterranean
- DASH
- Vegetarian
- Atkins
- Paleo

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### EXERCISE

Age Group	Type of Activity	Duration	Frequency	Intensity
Adults	Aerobic	150-300min/week	Moderate-intensity: 5 days/week or Vigorous-intensity: 3 days/week or a combination	Moderate-intensity or Vigorous-intensity
	Muscle-strengthening	2 days/week	All major muscle groups	Moderate or high intensity
	Flexibility	At least 2-3 days/week	Hold each stretch for 10-30 seconds	To the point of tightness or slight discomfort
	Balance	Regularly, as part of daily activities	N/A	N/A

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### EXERCISE - FITTE



Frequency



Intensity



Time or Duration



Type



Enjoyment

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### PEDIATRIC OBESITY

Obesity Classification	BMI-for-age percentile
Normal weight	Less than 85th percentile
Overweight	85th to less than 95th percentile
Obesity, class 1	95th to less than 120th percentile or BMI of 25 to 29.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup> , whichever is lower
Obesity, class 2	120th to less than 140th percentile or BMI of 30 to 34.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup> , whichever is lower
Obesity, class 3	140th percentile or higher or BMI of 35 kg/m <sup>2</sup> or higher

Pediatric Obesity Staging	BMI	Interventions
Step 0	BMI < 85th percentile	Encourage healthy lifestyle behaviors, monitor growth and development
Step 1	BMI 85th to <95th percentile or BMI > score 1 to <2.0	Targeted prevention with focus on healthy lifestyle behaviors and family-based interventions
Step 2	BMI 95th to <120th percentile or BMI > score 2.0 to <3.0	Structured weight management interventions, including family-based, group, individual, and/or multidisciplinary interventions
Step 3	BMI ≥ 120th or 95th percentile or BMI > score ≥3.0	Comprehensive multidisciplinary interventions, which may include pharmacotherapy or bariatric surgery for severely affected adolescents

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### PEDIATRIC OBESITY

**FIGURE 1**  
Treatment Experience of Obesity as a Chronic Disease

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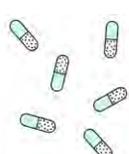
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PHARMACOTHERAPY



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MEDS THAT CAUSE WEIGHT GAIN

Class	Medications	Alternatives
Anti-inflammatories	Prednisone, Hydrocortisone, Dexamethasone	NSAIDs, increased exercise
Atypical antipsychotics	Olanzapine, Quetiapine, Clozapine	Aripiprazole, Ziprasidone, Risperidone (less weight gain)
Mood stabilizers	Lithium, Valproate	Lamotrigine (less weight gain)
Anticonvulsants	Gabapentin, Pregabalin, valproate, carbamazepine	Lamotrigine (less weight gain), Levetiracetam (less weight gain), topiramate (weight neutral / loss)
Tricyclic antidepressants	Amitriptyline, Imipramine	Nortriptyline (less weight gain)
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)	Paroxetine, Sertraline, Escitalopram	Sertraline (less weight gain), Fluoxetine (weight neutral)
Atypical antidepressants	Mirtazapine, Trazodone	Bupropion (weight loss)
Antidiabetic agents	Insulin, Sulfonylureas, TZDs	DPP-4 (weight neutral), Metformin, SGLT 2 and GIP1 analogs (weight loss)
Infectious Disease Agents	Protease Inhibitors	
Anti-hypertensives	Alpha-blockers / Beta-blockers	Calcium channel blockers, ACE-As/ARBs
OB/Gyn	OCPs, depot shot	Non hormonal IUD (weight neutral), hormonal IUD, Nexplanon, Progestin only pill (less weight gain)

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ANTI-OBESITY PHARMACOTHERAPY

Orlistat

Phentermine

Qysmia

Contrave

GLP-1 Analogs

Saxenda (Victoza)

Wegovy (Ozempic)

Off-Label

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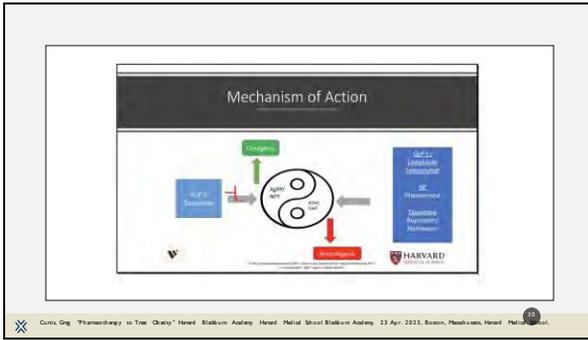
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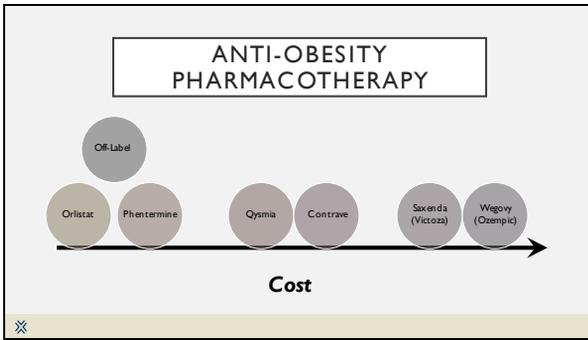
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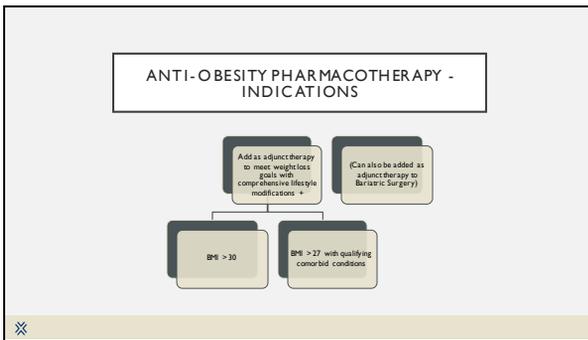
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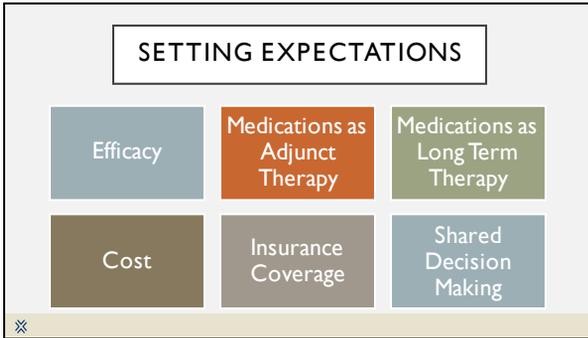
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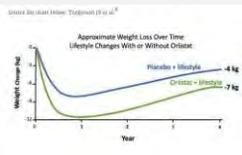
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### ORLISTAT



- Mechanism: gastrointestinal lipase inhibitor - reduces fat absorption
- Dosing: prescription and also available over the counter
  - Prescription: 120mg TID w/meals (Xenical)
  - OTC: 60 mg TID w/meals (All)
- Side effects: Diarrhea, flatulence, bowel incontinence; interference w/ fat soluble vitamins and med absorption - Warfarin, Vitamins A,D,E,K, and some immunosuppressants
- Clinical Use: lowest probability of achieving 5% weightloss - but also lowest risk of serious side effects
- Consider if **patient will tolerate (motivated)** by diarrhea, flatulence, bowel incontinence
- Avoid if: comorbid malabsorption, postbariatric surgery, nephrolithiasis
- Management: co-prescribe vitamins ADEK; administer vitamins / other meds 2-3 hours before dose
- Expected benefit: 3kg weightloss compared with lifestyle

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### PHENTERMINE

- Mechanism: sympathomimetic amine appetite suppressant, similar to amphetamine
- Dosing: available by prescription as generic phentermine HCL: 15, 30, 37.5 mg tablets; brand Lomaira 8 mg tablets, brand Adipex 37.5 mg tablets; phentermine resin - 15/30 mg tabs absorbed slowly in GI tract
  - 15 to 37.5 mg/day 1-2 hours after breakfast or in 2 divided doses
  - 8 mg 30 minutes prior to meals TID
- DEA schedule IV; **Contraindicated in Pregnancy**
- Side effects: easily dissociates in GI tract; common side effects: tachycardia, increase in blood pressure, tremor, **dry mouth**, constipation
- Clinical Use: most commonly prescribed **least expensive**; FDA approved for **short term use (12 weeks only)**, but longer term use can be used if bp is normal. Intermittent use can be considered.
- Consider if pt desires low cost option for appetite control
- **Avoid if:** comorbid HTN, cardiac disease, glaucoma, substance use disorder, recent use of MAOIs
- Management: monitor blood pressure; avoid alcohol use, monitor stimulant use disorder
- Expected benefit: moderate potential to achieve 5% weight loss goal added to lifestyle modification

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**CONTRAVE (WELLBUTRIN / NALTREXONE)**

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**GLP-1 ANALOGS**

- GLP-1 receptor agonists; used with higher doses than diabetes for weight loss
- Mechanism: appetite suppression by activation of hypothalamic GLP-1 receptors to increase postprandial satiety sensation - also delays gastric emptying
- Dosing:
  - Liraglutide (Saxenda) - 3mg sub injection daily (diabetes max dose 1.8 mg daily)
    - Start with 0.6 mg daily for 1 week, then increase daily dose each week over 4 weeks as tolerated to max of 3 mg (1.2, 1.8, 2.4, 3.0)
  - Semaglutide -2.4 mg injection weekly; (diabetes = ozempic (IM) and Rybelus (PO)) but for Obesity = Wegovy
    - 0.25 mg weekly for 4 weeks; then go up every 4 weeks (0.5, 1.1, 1.7, 2.4)
- Approved for Peds (Saxenda, Wegovy – Ages > 12)
- Saxenda – ages 12-17 – pt's weight has to > 132 lbs (60 kh)

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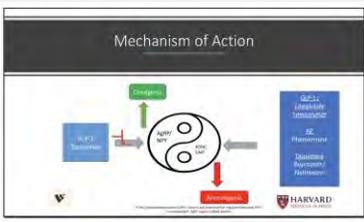
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Mechanism of Action



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**GLP-1 ANALOGS**

- Side effects:
  - N/V, constipation, diarrhea, dyspepsia; less common - Pancreatitis, thyroid c-cell tumors theoretical risk (Medullary cancer)
  - Wegovy: increased risk of acute gallbladder disease; hypoglycemia, diabetic retinopathy, and increased HR
- Clinical Use: significantly more expensive than all other meds - but have less serious risks
- Consider if: Patient has diabetes or prediabetes, is willing to use an injectable medication, is willing to tolerate mild gastrointestinal symptoms, and understands potential long-term costs.
- Avoid if: History of pancreatitis or medullary thyroid carcinoma, Family history of multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2
- Management: Nausea is most prominent early after initiation, then often diminishes. If necessary, slow the dose escalation cycle during initiation. Patients with nausea and vomiting may also experience greater weight loss than those who do not; uses cautiously in CKD

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**GLP-1 ANALOGS**

**Expected Benefit:**

- Demonstrated in patients with or without diabetes
- Semaglutide Treatment Effect in People with Obesity (STEP) trial: Mean loss of 6% of weight by week 12, and 12% of weight by week 28, sustained 15% weight loss at 2 years
- Semaglutide leading to 20% reduction in MACE (SELECT TRIAL)

**Cost**

- Saxenda: good rx: 1400\$, can look up copay online; can get as low as 25\$ for 30 day supply with insurance if you have savings card (pharmacists can help)
- Wegovy: good rx: 1400\$, co-pay card - pay as little as 0\$, wegotogether - personalized support for patients - has behavior change resources, but they can try to help navigate costs

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**Request or activate your Saxenda® Savings Offer**

If you have private or commercial insurance you may pay as little as \$25 per 30-day supply (1 box) of Saxenda® subject to a maximum savings of \$200 per 30-day supply. If you pay cash for your prescriptions, you can save up to \$200 per 30-day supply (1 box) of Saxenda®.\*

\*Eligibility and other restrictions apply.



**SAXENDA (LIRAGLUTIDE)**

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**Request your Wegovy® Savings Offer and WeGo Together® support**

If you have private or commercial insurance with coverage, you may pay as little as \$0 per 28-day supply (1 box) of Wegovy® subject to a maximum savings of \$225 per 28-day supply for 12 fills. If you pay cash for your prescriptions or your commercial insurance does not cover Wegovy®, you can save up to \$200 per 28-day supply (1 box) of Wegovy®.\*

**¿Habla español?** Por favor, llame 1.888.870.2345 para inscribirse.

\*Eligible and other restrictions apply.



**WEGOVY  
(SEMAGLUTIDE)**

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**GLP-1 POPULARITY**

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**COMPOUNDED GLP-1S**

- Official Statement from Obesity Medicine Association
  - In the interest of "primum non nocere" (i.e., first do no harm), the Obesity Medicine Association recommends that obesity medications and their formulations should undergo clinical trial testing for efficacy and safety oversight by the FDA.
  - The components of compounded peptides should be legally produced by source companies whose identities are readily disclosed, and who have documented manufacturing processes compliant with oversight by applicable regulatory agencies. I.e., the FDA for example, if the source component is a prescription drug or controlled substance.
  - Prescribers should be cautious of compounded peptides where the safety, efficacy, quality, and purity of the source molecule, and their combination with other molecules, cannot be assured. At minimum, patients should be informed of potential limitation of compounded peptides.
  - Angela Fitch , Anthony Aurilemma , Harold Edward Bays

Rob. Angla, et al. "Compounded Peptide An Obesity Medicine Association Position Statement." Obesity Atlas, vol. 4, 2022, p. 0098. <https://doi.org/10.1093/obp/obz020>, 0098.

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OFF-LABEL

Metformin	Wellbutrin	Topomax
Naltrexone	Ozempic	Mounjaro

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TIRZEPETIDE

- Approved for DMONLY. Off-Label for Obesity
- Dual GLP-1 / GIP Receptor Antagonist
- MOA: stimulates POMC/CART, slows gastric emptying
- Dosing: Start 2.5 mg weekly, increase by 2.5 mg every 4 weeks up to max dose of 15 mg weekly
- Side effects: GI → NV, constipation, Tachycardia, Depression?

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GELESIS-100

- Medical Device → hydrocellulose capsule, absorbs H2O and expands in stomach taking up gastric space
- Approved if BMI > 25 with or without comorbidities
- Dose: 3 capsules in 16 oz of Water BID
- CI: pregnancy, allergies to cellulose, and gelatin, caution if recent abdominal surgeries, strictures (Crohn's), esophageal rings, etc.
- SE: GI – bloating, etc.
- Not studied in patients with prior bariatric surgery

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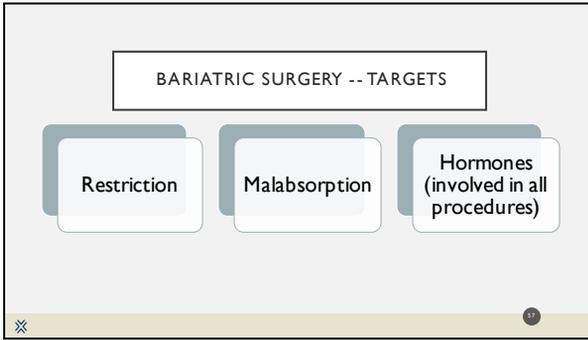
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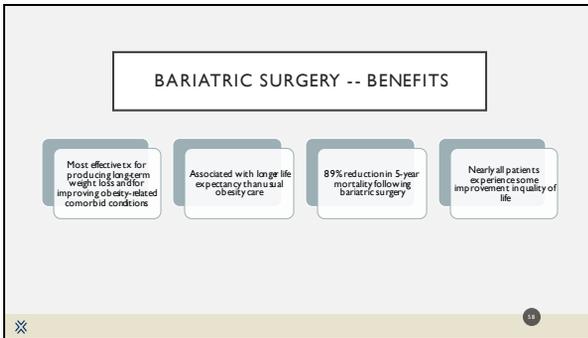
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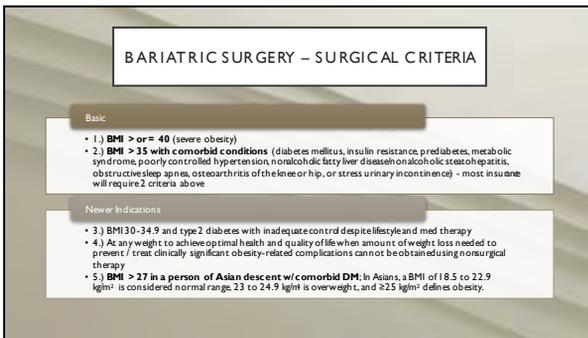
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### BARIATRIC SURGERY – COMMON PROCEDURES

Gastric Band

Sleeve Gastrectomy

Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass

Biliopancreatic Diversion

BPD with Duodenal Switch

Single Anastomosis (Mini Bypass)

Gastric Balloon

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### GASTRIC BAND

- Previously popular, but now less offered
- Targets: Restriction
- Less Weight loss
- Increased risk of adjustment, mechanical complications (erosion, band slippage, obstruction)

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### SLEEVE GASTRECTOMY

**Most Common in US**

**Targets:** Restriction + Hormone-induced appetite suppression

**Weight loss:** Average 50–60% of excess weight

**Risks:**

- Early:
  - Anastomotic leak (staple line leak) is the most feared complication: 1% to 3%<sup>10</sup>
  - Nausea, vomiting
  - Bleeding: 1% to 2%
  - Delayed gastric emptying
  - Wound infection
  - Deep venous thrombosis (DVT)/pulmonary embolism
  - Obstruction
  - Reflux (GERD) (most see improvement of GERD but some will get worse)
  - Death: 0.1% to 0.5%
- Late:
  - Nutritional deficiencies folate, vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, iron, and thiamine
  - Obstruction
  - Calcaneus
  - Intra-abdominal hernia

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### GASTRIC BYPASS

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Common in US
- Targets: Restriction + Hormone + malabsorption
- Weight Loss: Avg 70-75% of excess weight

**Risks:**

- Early (< 30 days)
  - Anastomotic leak: 0.4%
  - Acute gastric dilation of the gastric remnant
  - Nausea, vomiting
  - DVT/pulmonary embolism
  - Bleeding
  - Death: 0.5% to 1%
- Late
  - Marginal ulcer (1 cm below the anastomotic line, with risk for perforation) 5.2%
  - Nutritional deficiencies (Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, iron, thiamine, vitamin D zinc and calcium)
  - Obstruction
    - Stenosis: 3.7%
    - Intra-abdominal hernia
    - Gallstones: 10%



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### GASTRIC BYPASS

- **ALERT: NSAIDs, Nicotine, and Corticosteroids: Caution**
  - Due to the risk for **anastomotic ulcer**, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and nicotine use in any form are contraindicated for life after gastric bypass. Corticosteroids, NSAIDs, and tobacco can cause ulcers after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass.

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### DUMPING SYNDROME



**Other symptoms include:**

- fast heart rate
- sweating
- nausea
- diarrhea or vomiting



**DUMPING SYNDROME**

- Weakness
- Dizziness, vertigo
- Diaphoresis
- Tachycardia
- Abdominal Cramping
- Soft-Limiting

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### MEDS TO AVOID AFTER SURGERY

- NSAIDs** are completely contraindicated following gastric bypass to avoid marginal ulcer and to avoid ulcers in the gastric pouch.
- NSAIDs** are also discouraged following sleeve gastrectomy.
- Oral bisphosphonates (it can cause esophageal erosions (eg, alendronate))
- Warfarin, if used, will require special monitoring and management.
- Anticoagulants** increase risk for ulcers after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass.

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### INSUFFICIENT WEIGHT LOSS AFTER SURGERY

- 10% to 20% of patients will experience inadequate weight loss or actual weight regain as a long-term complication of bariatric surgery, depending on criteria used.
- Common definition of adequate weight loss after surgery = about 50% of excess weight.
- Insufficient weight loss or weight regain following bariatric surgery can be due to anatomic, behavioral, and medical factors.
- The primary targets of weight regain treatment are behavioral, with emphasis on dietary supports, physical activity, and social stressors.
- Antiobesity pharmacotherapy may be continued or even initiated post-surgically as an adjunct to promote adequate weight loss.
- Weight gain retreatment requires a multifactorial approach with coordination across the medical and surgical teams.

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### PREGNANCY AFTER SURGERY

- Increase in fertility expected after surgery
- Pregnancy safe after 12-18 mo
- Low dose OCPs may not be effective due to unreliable absorption - recommend higher dose / long term contraception

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