

JOINT EVENT

12<sup>th</sup> Global Gastroenterologists Meeting  
&3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

March 15-16, 2018 Barcelona, Spain

**Interpersonal functioning of individuals who seek bariatric surgery compared to a control group**

Yael Latzer

University of Haifa, Israel

**Background:** Studies have found that patients with binge eating disorder (BED) have difficulties in their interpersonal functioning. There is limited research examining interpersonal relationships among bariatric patients. The aim of this study was to assess the differences in interpersonal functioning between bariatric candidates and a control group.

**Methods:** A hundred and sixty six adult seeking bariatric surgery in Israel (Mean BMI=40.7; SD=5.1) participated in the study. They were compared to 82 control participants who were divided into three groups: normal weight (N=41) (Mean BMI=22.1; SD=1.8); overweight (N=27) (Mean BMI=26.9; SD=1.4) and obese (N=14) (Mean BMI=34.05; SD=4.05). All participants completed surveys addressing demographic, eating disorders (EDE-Q), depression, anxiety, stress (DASS) and interpersonal functioning (SAS-SR, IIP).

**Results:** Bariatric candidates had significantly more difficulties in primary relationship and were higher in being too caring. Eating and shape concerns, as well as anxiety levels were significantly higher in the bariatric candidate group compared to the normal weight and overweight group. Weight concern levels were also found to be significantly higher amongst bariatric candidates compared to all three of the sub control groups.

**Conclusion:** Our findings are in line with previous studies which found difficulties with intimate relationships and nurturance among BED patients. These findings may be part of the explanation why some people gain more weight than others, and may contribute to understanding more about the failures of bariatric surgery.

latzery@gmail.com