

Life Expectancy after Bariatric Surgery — the Swedish Obese Subjects Study

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We read with great interest the study by Carlsson et al¹ showing that bariatric surgery was associated with longer life expectancy than usual care in patients with obesity. This study is important, regarding the dramatic impact of obesity on life expectancy.² However, authors didn't mention that these procedures (especially gastric bypass) could be associated with nephrologic complications, including nephrolithiasis and oxalate nephropathy.^{3,4}

Indeed, gastric bypass induces fat malabsorption, thus increasing fat delivery to the colon where free fatty acids bind calcium, increasing calcium saponification and, as a result, free luminal oxalate. This unbound oxalate load is then absorbed by the bowel, and eventually filtered by the kidneys. This phenomenon can lead to kidney stones and oxalate deposition within kidney tissue. This process may lead to acute kidney injury⁵ or progressive chronic kidney disease (CKD) sometimes leading to kidney failure.

For these reasons, in our center, sleeve gastrectomy is preferred in patients with CKD who need bariatric surgery, especially for kidney transplant candidates. Indeed, there is a risk for recurrent oxalosis in the allograft.⁴

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