

Review of: "Obesity and life events: the hypothesis of psychological phenotypes"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article treats a very interesting and complex topic that is whether we can find out different types of patients with obesity on the basis of some indicators eg. life events, mental functioning, weight history and treatment trends, etc.

Furthermore to find common traits or some “ specific psychological types” could be very useful in the clinical treatment.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the aim and the design of the article has not been clearly outlined

I would like to point out only some important inaccuracies.

ABSTRACT

- In the abstract the author of the article proposes two aims:

“This article proposes a clinical and theoretical observation of the role of life events in the development of obesity” and
“The proposal is to distinguish these types of patients into two psychological phenotypes at initial assessment, as surgical and post-surgical outcomes may differ...”

Does the article focus only on bariatric patients? it is not specified

- Furthermore the title does not specify on which type of obesity the article is focused on (bariatric, severe, mild obesity etc)
- “KEYWORDS Obesity, Life events, Trauma, Phenotypes, Psychotherapy”. trauma and psychotherapies are not treated

INTRODUCTION

At the end of the introduction no aim of the article is specified

- The myth of obesity psychological patterns

“To date, despite the fact that research has grown and hundreds of studies have been carried out, there is no sufficiently valid and reliable empirical evidence that clearly demonstrates the existence of a specific psychological and psychopathological configuration among people with obesity (Vaidya, 2006).”

The statement has no value because the reference is too dated

The author only cited but do not explore the different psychopathological functioning in obese patients linked to the presence of an eating disorder (not only bulimic, but also anorexia, etc.) depression etc.

- Obesity Metabolic Phenotypes

The topic is not relevant to the title

- Obesity, life stressors and emotional abuse

This part of the article should be (according to the title) "the core" part, but the definitions of life events, stressors, etc. are not specified and the bibliography cited is scarce and dated and the characteristics of different types of psychopathological functioning on the basis of different life events etc. are not specified

CONCLUSIONS

The author states "the possibility of identifying a potential psychological phenotype during the clinical pre-surgical psychological interview....," but in any part of article she focused on clinical pre-surgical characteristics of bariatric obese patients.....

The author would highlight specifically the severe obesity characteristics, and she would describe the importance on life events specifically in patients with severe obesity candidate to bariatric surgery....

REFERENCES

The author must update the references

I think that the article need a deep revision, a more explanation of the focus, a more clear description of the different topics-

The article needs a deep english mother tongue revision.

CONCLUSION: REFUSED WITH POSSIBILITY TO SUBMIT ONLY AFTER A DEEP REVISION.