

CABPS 2012 conference Report submission

Category: Psychiatry

Title: Suicidality and Bariatric Surgery Candidates

Authors: Susan Wnuk, Ph.D., C. Psych., Reena Chopra, Ph.D., C. Psych., Jessica VanExan, Ph.D., C. Psych., Marlene Taube-Schiff, Ph.D., C. Psych., Sanjeev Sockalingam, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Higher than expected rates of suicide have been documented in patients after bariatric surgery, particularly a year or more post-surgery. However, little research has been conducted examining the history of suicidal behaviours in bariatric surgery candidates. The aim of this study was to investigate the rates of suicidal behaviours, including suicide attempts, suicide ideation, non-suicidal self-injury, and hospitalizations for suicidality, in a consecutively referred sample of 336 bariatric surgery candidates presenting at the University of Toronto Collaborative bariatric surgery program. Results revealed that 6.7% of bariatric surgery candidates reported having attempted suicide, 1.5% reported having engaged in non-suicidal self-injury, 20.4% reported past suicidal ideation, and 4.9% had been hospitalized for suicidality. These rates are higher than those reported for Canadian population at large. Suicidality was also significantly associated with psychopathology including mood and anxiety disorders, and with demographic variables including socioeconomic and marital status. These findings are comparable to existing research on suicidality in bariatric surgery patients, and is confirmed by existing research examining suicide in post-surgery patients. These results reveal that a lifetime history of psychopathology has an important impact in psychosocial functioning after surgery. Implications for assessment and treatment will be discussed.