

Higher risk of cardiovascular events with weight fluctuations

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(HealthDay)—Fluctuation in body weight is associated with higher

mortality and a higher rate of cardiovascular events—independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors—in patients with coronary artery disease, according to a study published in the April 6 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Sripal Bangalore, M.D., an interventional cardiologist with the NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues analyzed medical data from 9,509 patients with [coronary artery disease](#) in a clinical trial to test the effect of statin medications. The patients were tracked over four years, with doctors regularly taking measure of their health and their [body weight](#).

The researchers found that each increase of one standard deviation in body-weight variability was associated with greater risk of [coronary heart disease](#), myocardial infarction, resuscitated cardiac arrest, revascularization, angina, stroke, or heart failure. Risk of death was 124 percent higher, [myocardial infarction](#) 117 percent higher, and stroke 136 percent higher among patients in the quintile with the highest variation in body weight versus those in the quintile with the lowest variation in body weight, in adjusted models.

"For every 1.5- to 2-pound change in weight fluctuation, the risk of any coronary or cardiovascular event was increased by 4 percent, and the risk of death by 9 percent," Bangalore told *HealthDay*. Bangalore thinks dramatic changes in weight likely place a lot of stress on the body, and also causes hormonal changes that affect the heart.

The study was funded by Pfizer.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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