

Weight loss surgery may affect the risk of cancer

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A new analysis published in the *British Journal of Surgery* indicates that weight loss surgery may affect an individual's risk of developing cancer.

This national population-based cohort study used data from the Hospital Episode Statistics database in England collected between 1997 and 2012. A total of 8794 obese patients who underwent [gastric bypass](#), [gastric banding](#), or sleeve gastrectomy were matched with 8794 obese individuals who did not have surgery.

Patients who underwent surgery had a 77 percent decreased risk of developing hormone-related cancer (breast, endometrial or prostate cancer) when compared with patients who did not have surgery.

Gastric bypass resulted in the largest risk reduction (84 percent) for hormone-related cancer but was associated with a greater than twofold increased risk of colorectal cancer.

Additional studies are needed to understand the biological mechanisms behind these findings.

More information: H. Mackenzie et al. Obesity surgery and risk of cancer, *British Journal of Surgery* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10914](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10914)

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