

Getting the goods on obesity

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A study in the *World Journal of Surgery* finds that obesity and two post-operative complications linked with it, incisional hernia and post-op infection, have associated genetic variants in common.

It's a longstanding question: does [obesity](#) influence these complications

or is the real culprit some other problem that commonly co-occurs with obesity, such as diabetes? To the extent that the genetic variants at issue in the study betray no links with other patient conditions, they might be a key piece of evidence.

Jamie Robinson, MD, MS, Joshua Denny, MD, MS, and colleagues gathered BMI and post-op complication data for 736,726 patients, confirming that increases in BMI bear a strong association with both complications.

They used 97 obesity-risk genetic variants to construct genetic risk scoring for obesity, and in a second cohort of 65,174 genotyped patients, they found strong associations between higher genetic risk scores and both complications. Obesity, a strong risk factor for these complications, might indeed be the real culprit.

More information: Jamie R. Robinson et al. Association of Genetic Risk of Obesity with Postoperative Complications Using Mendelian Randomization, *World Journal of Surgery* (2019). [DOI: 10.1007/s00268-019-05202-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00268-019-05202-9)

Provided by Vanderbilt University

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