

# Getting the goods on obesity

November 25 2019, by Paul Govern

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

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

Citation: Getting the goods on obesity (2019, November 25) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-11-goods-obesity.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
---