

Prior bariatric surgery may protect against severe COVID-19 outcomes

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(HealthDay)—Bariatric surgery may protect against severe COVID-19

infection and death for patients with morbid obesity, according to a study published in the November issue of *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*.

Megan Jenkins, M.D., from NYU Langone Health in New York City, and colleagues examined if prior bariatric surgery correlated with an increased risk for hospitalization and outcome severity after COVID-19 infection. The analysis included a cohort identified from a single institution of 124 COVID-19-positive patients with a history of bariatric surgery and a control cohort of 496 COVID-19-positive patients who were eligible for bariatric surgery (body mass index ≥ 40 kg/m² or body mass index ≥ 35 kg/m² with a comorbidity at the time of COVID-19 diagnosis).

The researchers found that patients with a history of bariatric surgery were less likely to be admitted through the [emergency department](#) (unadjusted odds ratio [uOR], 0.39), were less likely to require a ventilator during the admission (uOR, 0.42), had a shorter length of stay in both the [intensive care unit](#) and overall (uOR, 0.44), and were less likely to be deceased at discharge versus the control group (uOR, 0.42).

"Our results emphasize the importance of [bariatric surgery](#) as a protective factor against severe COVID-19 infection and death in the high-risk population with obesity and [that] independently decreases the risk of hospitalization," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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