

Bariatric surgery tied to higher short-term risk for venous thromboembolism

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In the short term, bariatric surgery is associated with a greater risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE), but in the long-term, it is associated with lower risk, according to a study [published](#) online April 30 in *Obesity Surgery*.

Laura B. Harrington, Ph.D., M.P.H., from Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, and colleagues evaluated the association between bariatric surgery and long-term VTE risk. The analysis included 30,171 adults with [body mass index](#) ≥ 35 kg/m² who underwent bariatric surgery (January 2005 to September 2015) and 218,961 matched nonsurgical patients.

The researchers found that at 30 days post-index date, bariatric surgery was associated with a greater VTE risk (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 5.01) and greater pulmonary embolism (PE) risk (aHR, 3.93) compared with no bariatric surgery. However, at one year post-index date, bariatric surgery was associated with a lower VTE and PE risk (aHR, 0.52 and 0.30, respectively). Similarly, at five years post-index date, lower VTE and PE risks persisted (aHR, 0.59 and 0.45, respectively).

"As patients and their [clinicians](#) weigh the risks and benefits of [bariatric surgery](#), our finding provides additional evidence to consider not only the procedure's risks in the short-term, but to balance these with potentially strong long-term benefits," the authors write.

More information: Laura B. Harrington et al, Bariatric Surgery and the Long-Term Risk of Venous Thromboembolism: A Population-Based Cohort Study, *Obesity Surgery* (2024). [DOI: 10.1007/s11695-024-07236-y](#)

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