

Child and Adolescent Obesity: Nature, Nurture and the Microbiome

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Obesity



Photo Credit: Jack G. Sutter

- 2015 updated Global Burden Disease Study reported
 - 107.7 million obese children
 - 603.7 million obese adults
- Most serious public health concern in the 21st century

***The primary concern of
overweight and obesity
is one of
health and not
appearance***

GBD 2015,
N Engl J Med 2017

Troiano RP, et al, *Pediatrics* 1998
Freedman DS, *Pediatrics* 1997

Obesity: Adolescents

- 40 % of overweight children will have increased weight during adolescence



Photo credit : ALAMY

- Girls are more prone than boys to develop persistent obesity
 - Pubertal hormone changes in body composition

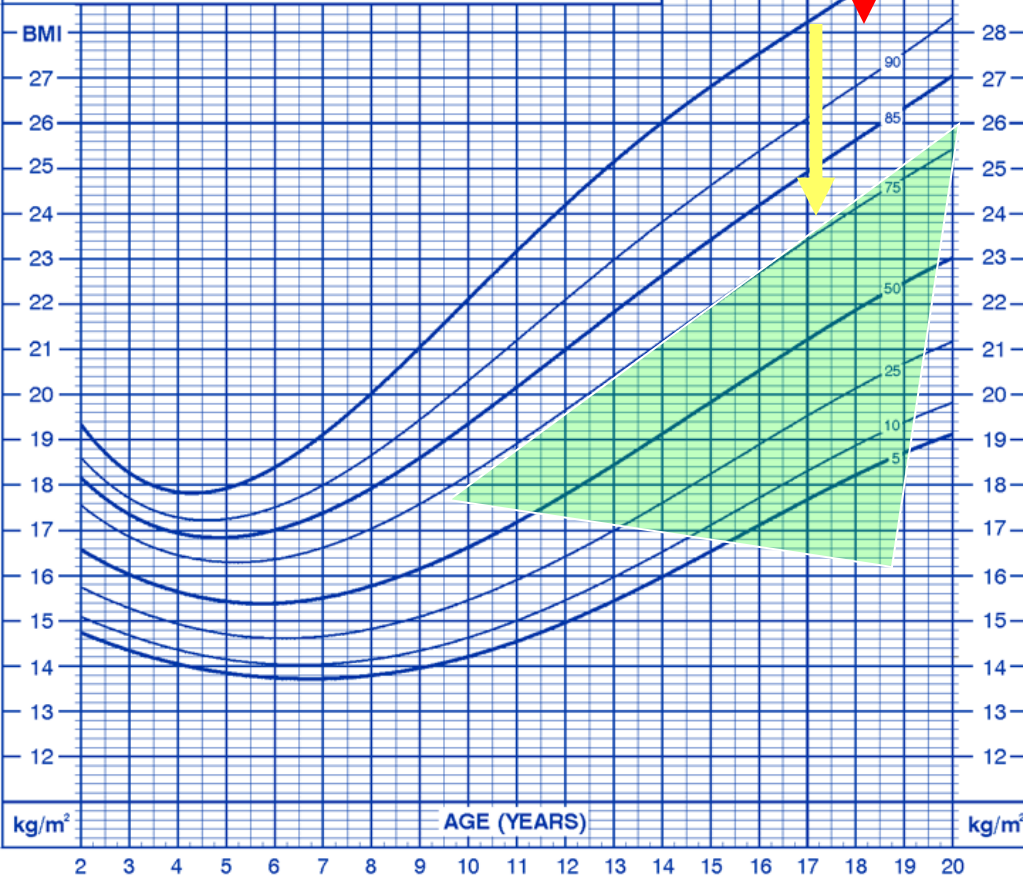
Mellits, ED, *Monogr Soc Res Child Dev* 1970,

AUBaker S, *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2005

Garn, *Am J Public Health* 1980, Merrit RJ, Obesity, *Curr Probl Pediatr* 1982

[illegible]

***To Calculate BMI:** Weight (kg) ÷ Stature (cm) ÷ Stature (cm) x 10,000
or Weight (lb) ÷ Stature (in) ÷ Stature (in) x 703



Body Mass Index

CDC tables validated against measures of body fat

Only 0.5–6.1% of pediatricians actually plot the BMI for children

- Teen obesity BMI > 95th %ile is frequently described

- toddlers and youth overweight and at risk range (BMI in the 85–95th %^{ile}) are being missed

Measurement of body mass index (BMI) percentile for age and gender is the most practical tool

***To Calculate BMI:** Weight (kg) ÷ Stature (cm) ÷ Stature (cm) x 10,000
or Weight (lb) ÷ Stature (in) ÷ Stature (in) x 703

Calculate and plot the BMI at all visits

important predictor of
future obesity

**Even in children who
are currently within a
healthy weight*

Childhood Obesity: Definition

Although the term “**Childhood Obesity**” is commonly used, the CDC, which supplies the growth chart and prevalence data, refrains from using the term “**obesity**” in relation to children and adolescents. Instead, the condition is referred to as “**overweight**”

BMI-For-Age Classifications	
Underweight	BMI-for-age < 5th percentile
Healthy	BMI-for-age 5th percentile to 85th percentile
At Risk for Overweight	BMI-for-age 85th percentile to < 95th percentile
Overweight	BMI-for-age \geq 95th percentile

Weight categories for adults and youth

Category	Adults (18 years and older) [1]	Youth (2 to 18 yrs) CDC, AAP, IOM, ES, IOTF [2,3]
Underweight	BMI <18.5	BMI <5 th percentile for age
Normal weight	BMI 18.5-24.9	BMI ≥5 th to <85 th percentile
Overweight	BMI 25-29.9	BMI ≥85 th to <95 th percentile
Obesity	BMI ≥30	BMI ≥95 th percentile
Severe obesity	BMI ≥35 (class II obesity)	BMI ≥120 percent of the 95 th percentile, or a BMI ≥35 (whichever is lower)* [4,5]
	BMI ≥40 (class III obesity)	BMI ≥140 percent of the 95 th percentile, or a BMI ≥40 (whichever is lower) [5]

Clinical Guidelines on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults--The Evidence Report. National Institutes of Health. *Obes Res* 1998
Barlow SE, Expert Committee.. *Pediatrics* 2007

Wang Y. et al., *Int J Epidemiol* 2001
Kelly AS, Barlow SE, Rao G, et al., *Circulation* 2013
Skinner AC, Skelton JA, *JAMA Pediatr* 2014
Uptodate accessed Aug 19 2019

Limitations

BMI composition in different racial & ethnic populations



- BMI cannot differentiate muscle from adipose tissue
 - cannot differentiate between excess adipose tissue & increased lean muscle mass
 - Non-Hispanic black peds have a *lower* percentage body fat & are less likely to have high adiposity
 - Compared to non-Hispanic whites or Mexican Americans with *same* BMI
 - Asian kids have more fat per same BMI,
 - BMI may underestimate risk to the health of pediatric Asian patients.
- 1999–2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
 - obese **male Hispanic adolescents** had **a higher risk of hepatic steatosis** than girls & other ethnic groups
 - limits of BMI alone as a risk factor assessment

Genetics vs. Environmental influence

- Debate over the relative contributions
- Contributions from
 - Genetic
 - Intrauterine factors
 - Environmental
 - Psychosocial factors

Distinctive features of obesity syndromes

Beckwith-Wiedemann
Albright hereditary osteodystrophy*
Alstrom-Hallgren syndrome
Bardet-Biedl syndrome
Carpenter syndrome
Cohen syndrome
Prader-Willi syndrome

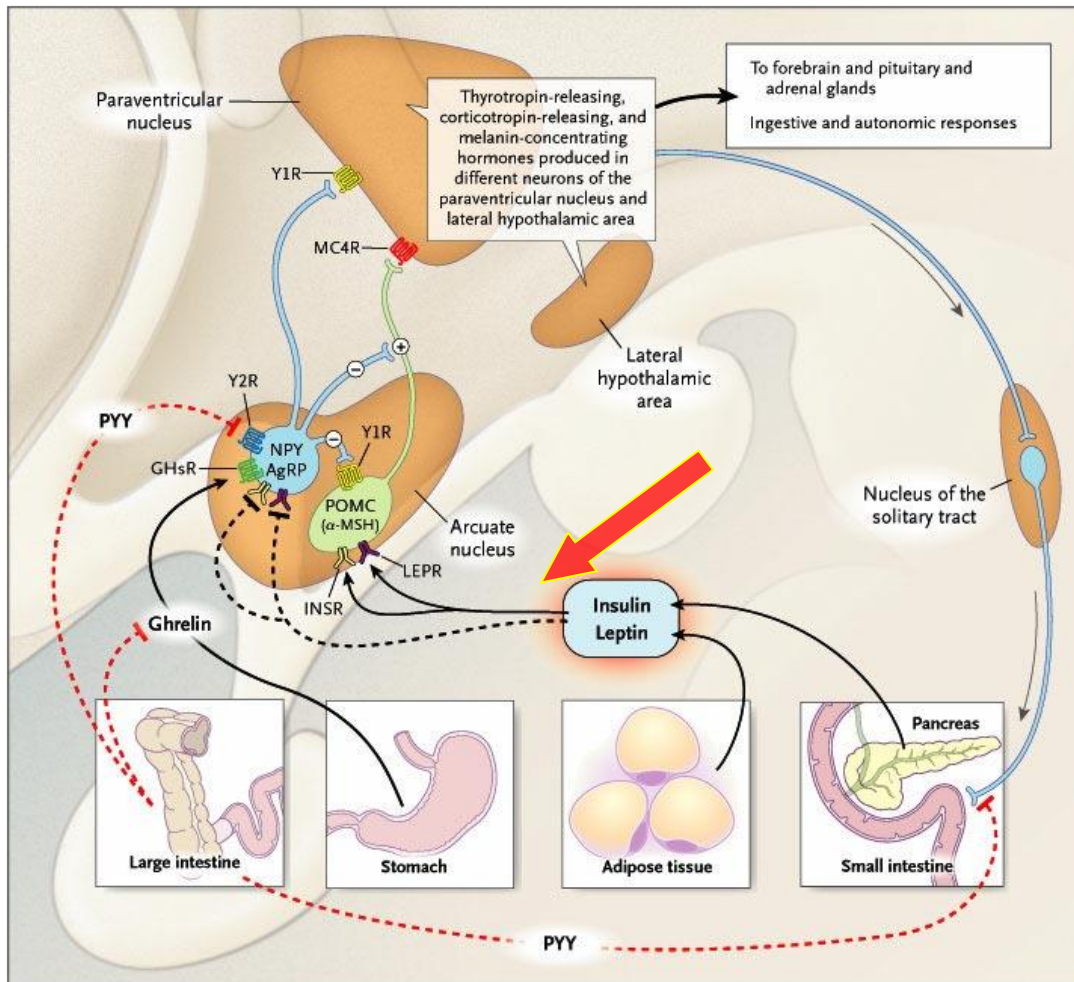
Selected single gene disorders:

Leptin deficiency
Leptin receptor deficiency
Proopiomelanocortin (POMC) deficiency
Prohormone convertase 1 impairment
Melanocortin receptors 3 and 4 deficiency

Endocrine disorders

Cortisol excess / Cushing's Syndrome/ disease / Iatrogenic
Hypothyroidism
Growth hormone deficiency
Acquired hypothalamic lesions
Pseudohypoparathyroidism with PTH resistance, Hypocalcemia and high phos*

Interactions among Hormonal and Neural Pathways That Regulate Food Intake and Body-Fat Mass

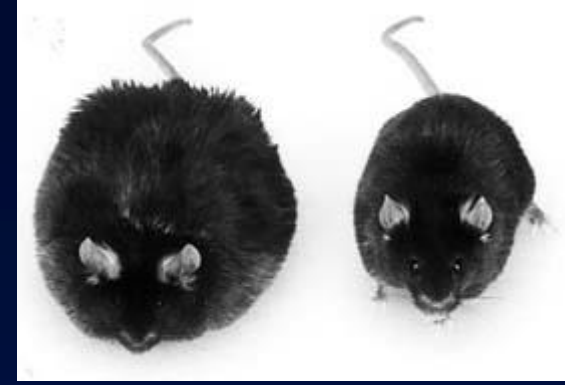


Hypothalamus:

Leptin

Communicates the adequacy of energy stored to the CNS

Leptin

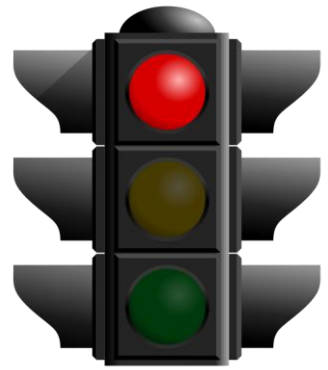


- adipocyte-derived hormone that circulates in proportion to body stores
- Originally described in the Obese (lep^{ob}/lep^{ob}) mouse

Leptin

- inhibits feeding behavior
- decreases insulin secretion
- increases metabolic rate

Friedman, *Nature*, 1998



**Red Light:
“Stop Eating”**

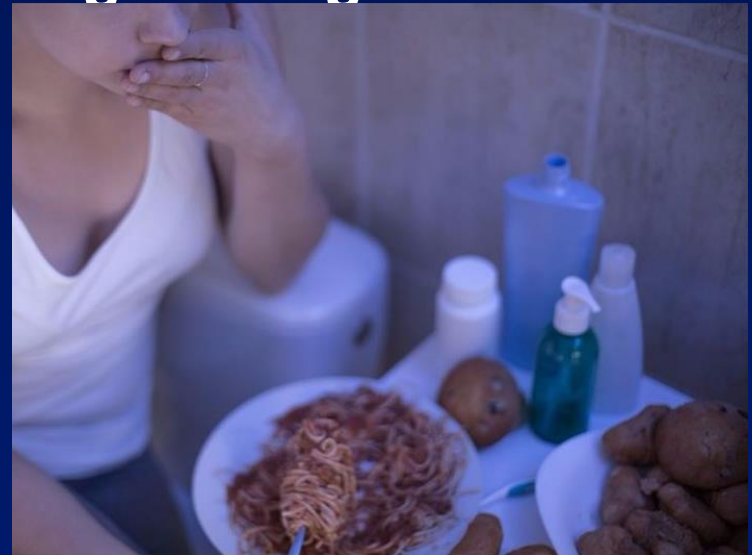
Genetics- Congenital leptin deficiency

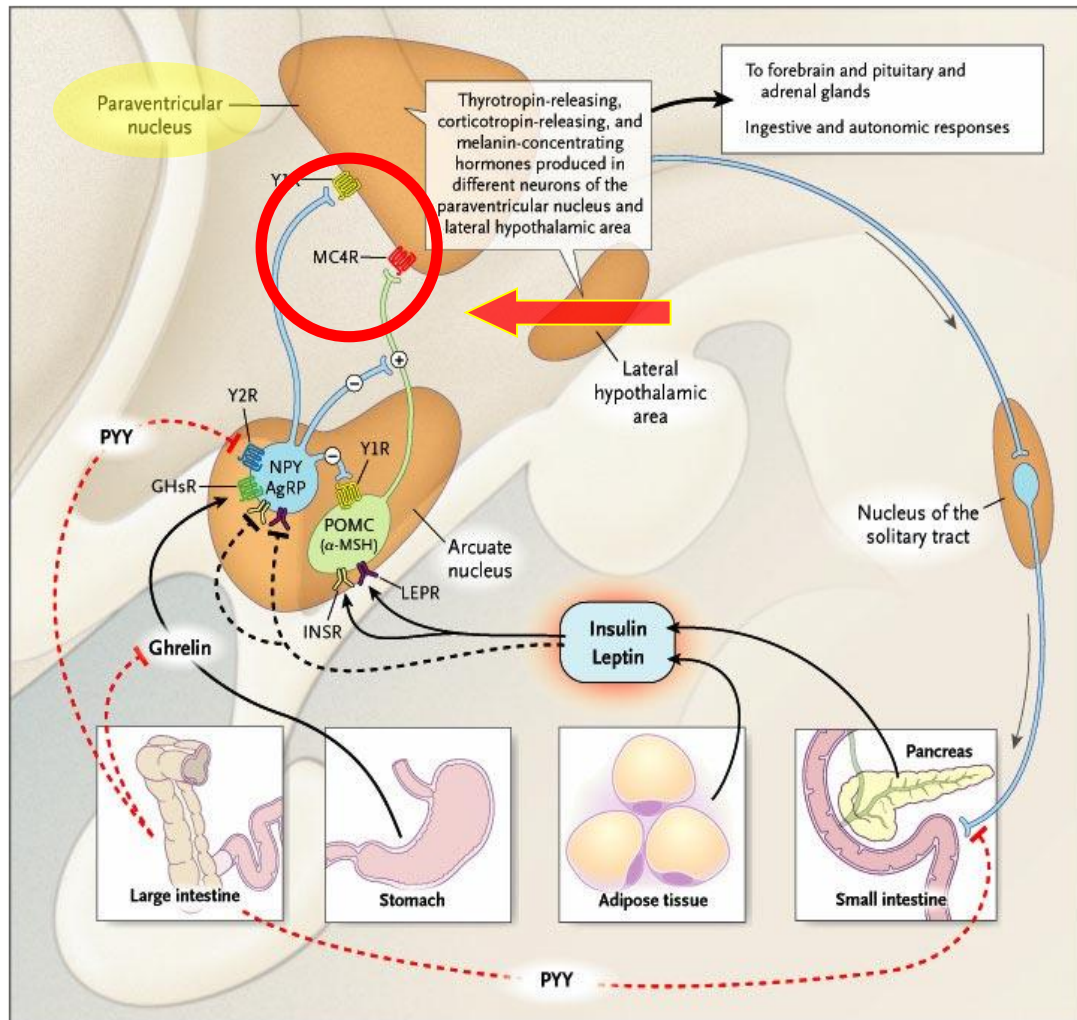
- Early-onset obesity
- Profound hyperphagia
- Hyperinsulinemia
- Advanced bone age
- Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
- Low TSH pulsatility
- neuroendocrine abnormalities
- **Food intake decreases dramatically when treated with exogenous leptin**



Genetics

- <5% of obesity can be related to genetic abnormalities
 - MC4R- Melanocortin receptor 4 mutations
 - **6 % in** a cohort of severe childhood obesity *Farooqui et al, NEJM*
 - Phenotype :obesity and binge eating

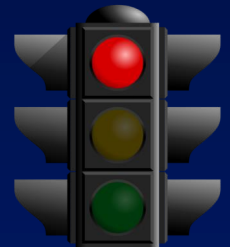




MC4 Receptor

POMC nerve termini release α -MSH \rightarrow bind to MC4R within the PVN

Red Light:
“Stop Eating”



MC4R stimulation:

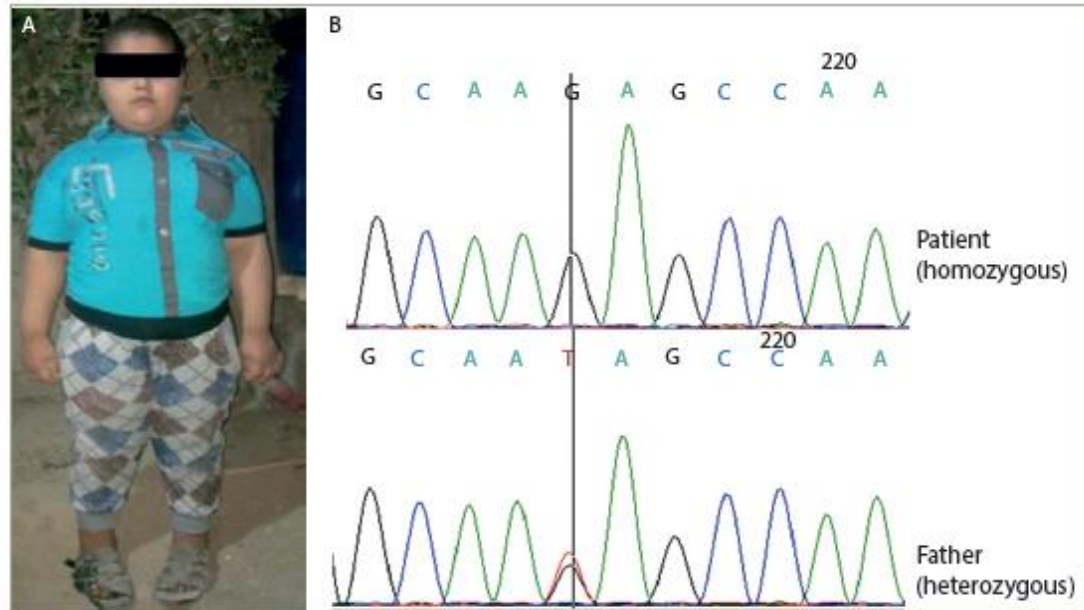
- Decreased food intake
- Decreased basal insulin
- Increased metabolic rate

•Fan, W, *Nature*, 1997

Korner J and Leibel R. N Engl J Med 2003;349:926-928

Pathogenic mutations of *melanocortin-4 receptor (MC4R)* : Most common cause of monogenic obesity

Figure 1: Patient with early-onset severe childhood obesity and sequencing electropherograms



Patient with early-onset severe childhood obesity (A) and sequencing electropherograms (B) showing T to G transition leading to replacement of isoleucine by arginine at codon 69 (I69R), homozygous in patient (upper panel) and heterozygous in father (lower panel).

Evaluation of a melanocortin-4 receptor (MC4R) agonist (Setmelanotide) in MC4R deficiency



Tinh-Hai Collet^{1,2,12}, Béatrice Dubern^{3,4,12}, Jacek Mokrosinski^{1,12}, Hillori Connors^{5,12}, Julia M. Keogh¹, Edson Mendes de Oliveira¹, Elana Henning¹, Christine Poitou-Bernert^{3,4}, Jean-Michel Oppert^{3,4}, Patrick Tounian^{3,4}, Florence Marchelli³, Rohia Alili^{3,4}, Johanne Le Beyec^{6,7,8}, Dominique Pépin⁶, Jean-Marc Lacorte^{3,4,6}, Andrew Gottesdiener⁵, Rebecca Bounds¹, Shubh Sharma⁵, Cathy Folster⁵, Bart Henderson⁵, Stephen O'Rahilly¹, Elizabeth Stoner⁵, Keith Gottesdiener⁵, Brandon L. Panaro^{8,10}, Roger D. Cone^{10,11}, Karine Clément^{3,4,12}, I. Sadaf Farooqi^{1,12}, Lex H.T. Van der Ploeg^{5,12}

ABSTRACT

Objective: Pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC)-derived peptides act on neurons expressing the Melanocortin 4 receptor (MC4R) to reduce body weight. Setmelanotide is a highly potent MC4R agonist that leads to weight loss in diet-induced obese animals and in obese individuals with complete POMC deficiency. While POMC deficiency is very rare, 1–5% of severely obese individuals harbor heterozygous mutations in *MC4R*. We sought to assess the efficacy of Setmelanotide in human MC4R deficiency.

Methods: We studied the effects of Setmelanotide on mutant MC4Rs in cells and the weight loss response to Setmelanotide administration in rodent studies and a human clinical trial. We annotated the functional status of 369 published *MC4R* variants.

Results: In cells, we showed that Setmelanotide is significantly more potent at MC4R than the endogenous ligand alpha-melanocyte stimulating hormone and can disproportionately rescue signaling by a subset of severely impaired MC4R mutants. Wild-type rodents appear more sensitive to Setmelanotide when compared to MC4R heterozygous deficient mice, while MC4R knockout mice fail to respond. In a 28-day Phase 1b clinical trial, Setmelanotide led to weight loss in obese *MC4R* variant carriers. Patients with POMC defects upstream of MC4R show significantly more weight loss with Setmelanotide than MC4R deficient patients or obese controls.

Conclusions: Setmelanotide led to weight loss in obese people with MC4R deficiency; however, further studies are justified to establish whether Setmelanotide can elicit clinically meaningful weight loss in a subset of the MC4R deficient obese population.

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Collet et al, *Molecular Metabolism*, 2017

- MC4R, is a seven-transmembranedomain G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR)
- Potential drug target for the treatment of obesity
 - 1st gen MC4R agonists
 - suppression of food intake
 - induction of weight loss,
 - but also in a significant BP and Heart rate increase
 - Subsequent generations show promise**

Nature...

- Strong relation between the weight of the adoptee and the BMI of the biological and *not* with their adoptive parents

AJ Stunkard, An adoption study of human obesity, NEJM, 1986

- Twin studies suggest that 50-80% of the tendency to gain weight is genetically determined

Faith MS, Pediatrics 1999

- Poignant Pima Indian Studies

- US- severe obesity
- Sonora Mexico
- Energy expenditure,
- continuous food abundance
- physical inactivity



Valencia ME et al, 1999; Esparza et al, Int J Obes Rel Metab 2000

Variation in the Heritability of Child Body Mass Index by Obesogenic Home Environment

Stephanie Schrepft, PhD; Cornelia H. M. van Jaarsveld, PhD; Abigail Fisher, PhD; Moritz Herle, PhD; Andrea D. Smith, PhD; Alison Fildes, PhD; Clare H. Llewellyn, PhD

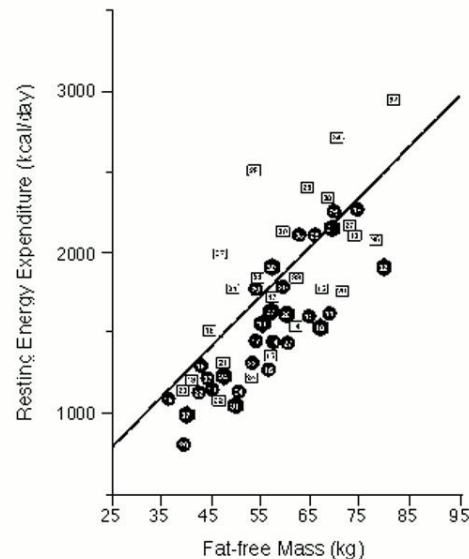
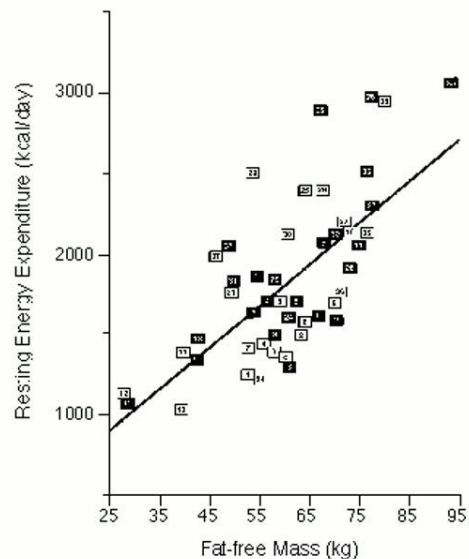
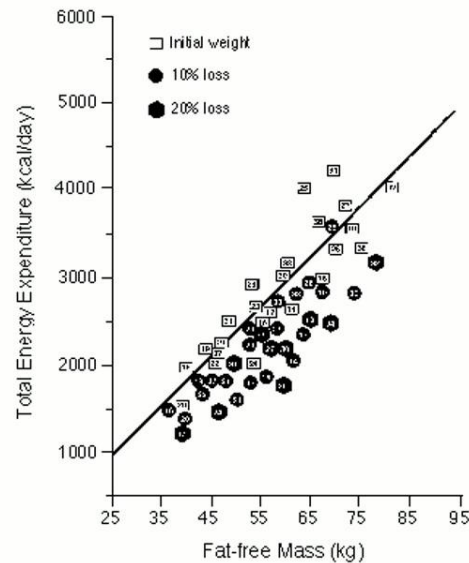
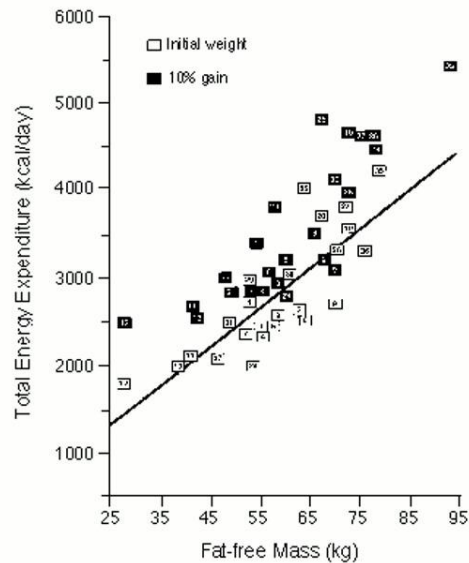
1850 twin pairs (one-third monozygotic),
Greater heritability of body mass index at 4 years of age
in children living in home environments at high obesogenic risk,

Based upon food, activity, and media exposures during early childhood,
compared with those living in healthier environments
86 % versus 39 %, respectively

These findings suggest that a healthy home environment during early childhood may attenuate the effect of a genetic predisposition to obesity.

Schrepft S et al, JAMA Pediatr. 2018

Total and Resting Energy Expenditure According to Fat-free Mass at the Initial Weight and after a Gain or Loss in Weight



Maintenance of a reduced or elevated body weight is associated with compensatory changes in energy expenditure

Weight reduction in obese pts results in decreased energy expenditure and protection of existing energy stores

These compensatory changes may account for the poor long-term efficacy of treatments for obesity

Leibel R et al. N Engl J Med 1995

Sedentary lifestyle



Childhood Obesity.

TV watching is directly linked to obesity in childhood

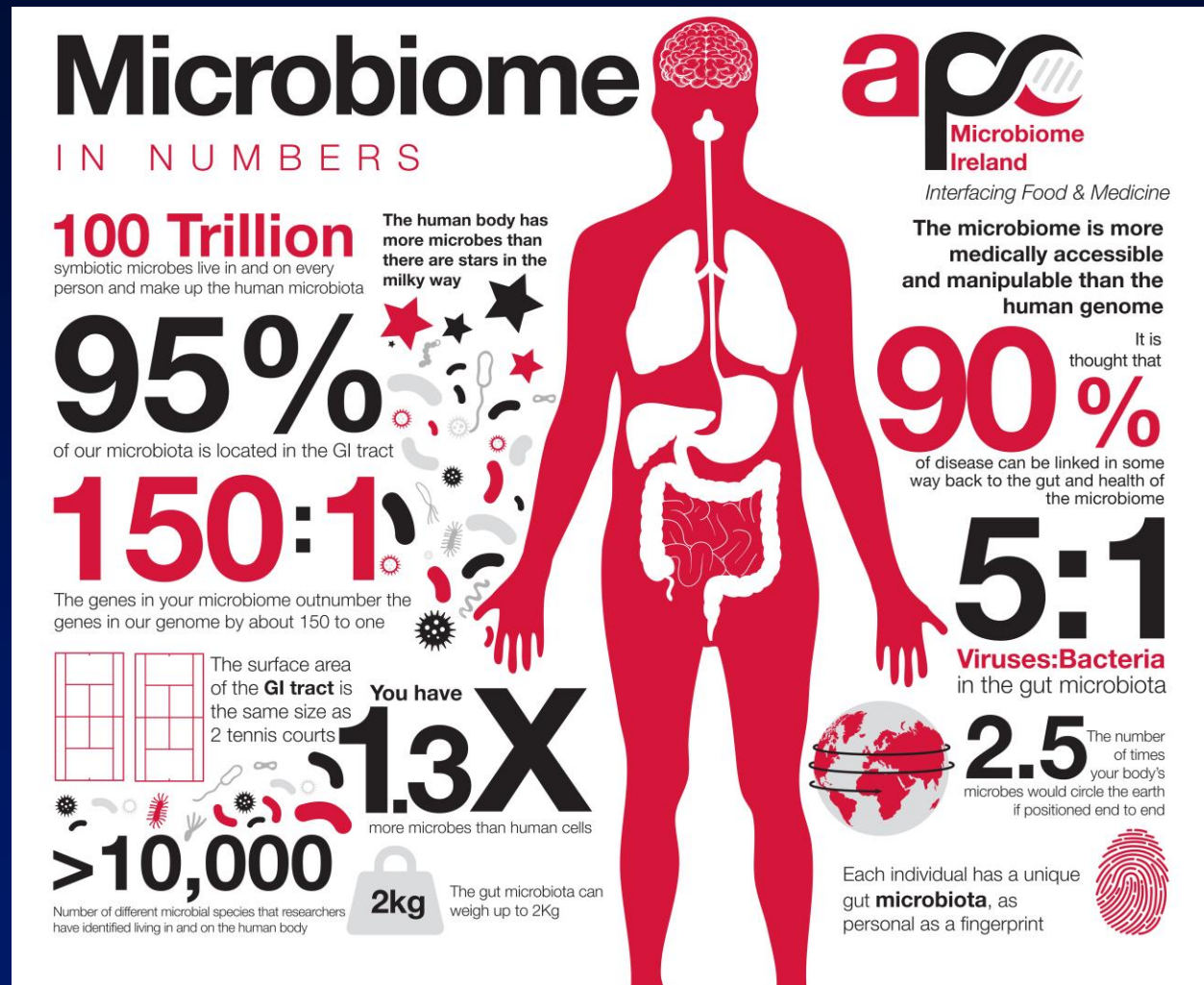
- obesity is 8.3 X greater in children who watch > 5 hrs of TV / day
- Dietary effects can be insidious
- Avoid caloric dense foods & juices



Limit non academic screen time to <1-2 hrs per day

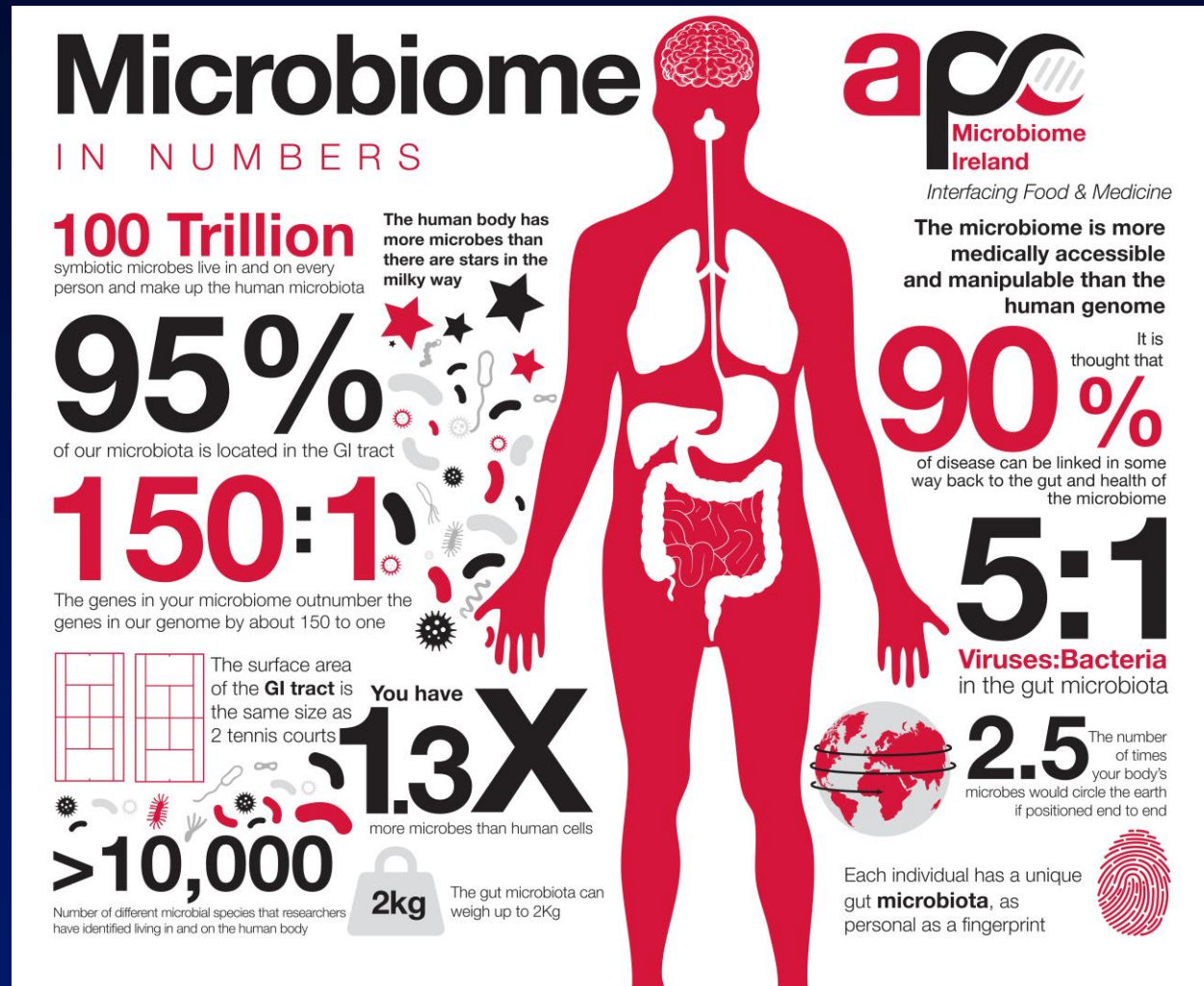
Recommend 20-60 mins of vigorous physical activity/day at least 5 days /week

Microbiome could also play a role in whether or not we become obese



Mechanistic studies:

- GI microbiota can influence both sides of the energy balance equation
 - energy utilization from the diet
 - host genes that regulate energy expenditure and storage



A scanning electron micrograph showing numerous rod-shaped bacteria, identified as Bacteroides, which are common in the human gut. The bacteria are purple and have a textured surface.

Human Obesity, Microbiome & Diet

- Obese individuals had more *Firmicutes* and nearly 90% less *Bacteroidetes* than the lean individuals.

Bacteroides are the most common bacteria species found in the human intestinal tract.
DENNIS KUNKEL PHOTO CREDIT
Mullin E , *Science*, Jan. 11, 2019

Ley RE, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci* 2005

Obesity and the Gut Microbiota

The gut microbiota as an environmental factor that regulates fat storage

Fredrik Bäckhed^{*†‡}, Hao Ding^{†§¶}, Ting Wang[¶], Lora V. Hooper^{†**}, Gou Young Koh^{††}, Andras Nagy^{§**}, Clay F. Semenkovich^{§§}, and Jeffrey I. Gordon^{*†¶¶}

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Contributed by Jeffrey I. Gordon, September 24, 2004

The gut microbial community (microbiota) is essential for processing dietary polysaccharides. adult germ-free (GF) C57BL/6 **mice** were conventionalized with a normal microbiota harvested of conventionally raised animals :

60% increase in body fat content
insulin resistance within 14 days
despite reduced food intake

Mechanistic studies reveal that the transplanted microbiota not only increased caloric release from dietary plant polysaccharides, but also modulated host genes that affect energy deposition in adipocytes including fasting-induced adipocyte factor (Fiaf)

Fiaf is a circulating lipoprotein lipase inhibitor and its suppression is essential for microbiota-induced deposition of triglycerides in adipocytes.

Our findings suggest that the gut microbiota is an important environmental factor that affects energy harvest from the diet and energy storage in the host

Richness of human gut microbiome correlates with metabolic markers

Emmanuelle Le Chatelier^{1*}, Trine Nielsen^{2*}, Junjie Qin^{3*}, Edi Prifti^{1*}, Falk Hildebrand^{4,5}, Gwen Falony^{4,5}, Mathieu Almeida¹, Manimozhiyan Arumugam^{2,3,6}, Jean-Michel Batto¹, Sean Kennedy¹, Pierre Leonard¹, Junhua Li^{3,7}, Kristoffer Burgdorf², Niels Grarup², Torben Jørgensen^{8,9,10}, Ivan Brandslund^{11,12}, Henrik Bjørn Nielsen¹³, Agnieszka S. Juncker¹³, Marcelo Bertalan¹³, Florence Levenez¹, Nicolas Pons¹, Simon Rasmussen^{1,3}, Shinichi Sunagawa⁶, Julien Tap^{1,6}, Sebastian Tims¹⁴, Erwin G. Zoetendal¹⁴, Søren Brunak¹³, Karine Clément^{15,16,17}, Joël Doré^{1,18}, Michiel Kleerebezem¹⁴, Karsten Kristiansen¹⁹, Pierre Renault¹⁸, Thomas Sicheritz-Ponten¹³, Willem M. de Vos^{14,20}, Jean-Daniel Zucker^{15,16,21}, Jeroen Raes^{4,5}, Torben Hansen^{2,22}, MetaHIT consortium†, Peer Bork⁶, Jun Wang^{3,19,23,24,25}, S. Dusko Ehrlich¹ & Oluf Pedersen^{2,26,27,28}

We are facing a global metabolic health crisis provoked by an obesity epidemic. Here we report the human gut microbial composition in a population sample of 123 non-obese and 169 obese Danish individuals. We find two groups of individuals that differ by the number of gut microbial genes and thus gut bacterial richness. They contain known and previously unknown bacterial species at different proportions; individuals with a low bacterial richness (23% of the population) are characterized by more marked overall adiposity, insulin resistance and dyslipidaemia and a more pronounced inflammatory phenotype when compared with high bacterial richness individuals. The obese individuals among the lower bacterial richness group also gain more weight over time. Only a few bacterial species are sufficient to distinguish between individuals with high and low bacterial richness, and even between lean and obese participants. Our classifications based on variation in the gut microbiome identify subsets of individuals in the general white adult population who may be at increased risk of progressing to adiposity-associated co-morbidities.

Obesity and gut Microbiota

- Low human fecal bacterial diversity is associated with more marked overall adiposity and dyslipidemia, impaired glucose homeostasis and higher low-grade inflammation
- The obese individuals among the lower bacterial richness group also gain more weight over time.

Gut microbiota from twins discordant for obesity modulate metabolism in mice.

Ridaura VK¹, Faith JJ, [Rey FE](#), Cheng J, Duncan AE, Kau AL, Griffin NW, Lombard V, Henrissat B, Bain JR, Muehlbauer MJ, Ilkayeva O, Semenkovich CF, Funai K, Hayashi DK, Lyle BJ, Martini MC, Ursell LK, Clemente JC, Van Treuren W, Walters WA, Knight R, Newgard CB, Heath AC, Gordon JL.

Author information

¹ Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63108, USA.

Abstract

The role of specific gut microbes in shaping body composition remains unclear. We transplanted fecal microbiota from adult female twin pairs discordant for obesity into germ-free mice fed low-fat mouse chow, as well as diets representing different levels of saturated fat and fruit and vegetable consumption typical of the U.S. diet. Increased total body and fat mass, as well as obesity-associated metabolic phenotypes, were transmissible with uncultured fecal communities and with their corresponding fecal bacterial culture collections. Cohousing mice harboring an obese twin's microbiota (Ob) with mice containing the lean co-twin's microbiota (Ln) prevented the development of increased body mass and obesity-associated metabolic phenotypes in Ob cage mates. Rescue correlated with invasion of specific members of Bacteroidetes from the Ln microbiota into Ob microbiota and was diet-dependent. These findings reveal transmissible, rapid, and modifiable effects of diet-by-microbiota interactions.

“Transplantation studies using the gut microbiota from human twins discordant for obesity have shown that germ-free mice inoculated with microbiota from obese or lean human twins take on the microbiota characteristics of the donor”



Those receiving the obese microbiota had an increase in adiposity
Those receiving the lean microbiota remained lean.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Gut microbiome diversity and high-fibre intake are related to lower long-term weight gain

C Menni¹, MA Jackson¹, T Pallister¹, CJ Steves¹, TD Spector¹ and AM Valdes^{1,2}

BACKGROUND: Cross-sectional studies suggest that the microbes in the human gut have a role in obesity by influencing the human body's ability to extract and store calories. The aim of this study was to assess if there is a correlation between change in body weight over time and gut microbiome composition.

METHODS: We analysed 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequence data derived from the faecal samples of 1632 healthy females from TwinsUK to investigate the association between gut microbiome measured cross-sectionally and longitudinal weight gain (adjusted for caloric intake and baseline body mass index). Dietary fibre intake was investigated as a possible modifier.

RESULTS: Less than half of the variation in long-term weight change was found to be heritable ($h^2=0.41$ (0.31, 0.47)). Gut microbiota diversity was negatively associated with long-term weight gain, whereas it was positively correlated with fibre intake. Nine bacterial operational taxonomic units (OTUs) were significantly associated with weight gain after adjusting for covariates, family relatedness and multiple testing (false discovery rate < 0.05). OTUs associated with lower long-term weight gain included those assigned to *Ruminococcaceae* (associated in mice with improved energy metabolism) and *Lachnospiraceae*. A *Bacterioides* species OTU was associated with increased risk of weight gain but this appears to be driven by its correlation with lower levels of diversity.

CONCLUSIONS: High gut microbiome diversity, high-fibre intake and OTUs implicated in animal models of improved energy metabolism are all correlated with lower term weight gain in humans independently of calorie intake and other confounders.

International Journal of Obesity (2017) **41**, 1099–1105; doi:10.1038/ijo.2017.66



High gut microbiome diversity
high fiber intake &
bacteria operational taxonomy units implicated in animal models
of improved energy metabolism

Correlated with lower weight gain in humans
Independent of caloric intake and other cofounders

PEDIATRIC ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Infant antibiotic exposures and early-life body mass

L Trasande^{1,2,3}, J Blustein^{3,4}, M Liu², E Corwin³, LM Cox⁵ and MJ Blaser^{4,5}

OBJECTIVES: To examine the associations of antibiotic exposures during the first 2 years of life and the development of body mass over the first 7 years of life.

DESIGN: Longitudinal birth cohort study.

SUBJECTS: A total of 11 532 children born at ≥ 2500 g in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), a population-based study of children born in Avon, UK in 1991–1992.

MEASUREMENTS: Exposures to antibiotics during three different early-life time windows (<6 months, 6–14 months, 15–23 months), and indices of body mass at five time points (6 weeks, 10 months, 20 months, 38 months and 7 years).

RESULTS: Antibiotic exposure during the earliest time window (<6 months) was consistently associated with increased body mass ($+0.105$ and $+0.083$ s.d. unit, increase in weight-for-length Z-scores at 10 and 20 months, $P < 0.001$ and $P = 0.001$, respectively; body mass index (BMI) Z-score at 38 months $+0.067$ s.d. units, $P = 0.009$; overweight OR 1.22 at 38 months, $P = 0.029$) in multivariable, mixed-effect models controlling for known social and behavioral obesity risk factors. Exposure from 6 to 14 months showed no association with body mass, while exposure from 15 to 23 months was significantly associated with increased BMI Z-score at 7 years ($+0.049$ s.d. units, $P = 0.050$). Exposures to non-antibiotic medications were not associated with body mass.

CONCLUSIONS: Exposure to antibiotics during the first 6 months of life is associated with consistent increases in body mass from 10 to 38 months. Exposures later in infancy (6–14 months, 15–23 months) are not consistently associated with increased body mass. Although effects of early exposures are modest at the individual level, they could have substantial consequences for population health. Given the prevalence of antibiotic exposures in infants, and in light of the growing concerns about childhood obesity, further studies are needed to isolate effects and define life-course implications for body mass and cardiovascular risks.

International Journal of Obesity (2013) 37, 16–23; doi:10.1038/ijo.2012.132; published online 21 August 2012

Keywords: antibiotics; human microbiome; body mass; ALSPAC

Gut Microbiome Infant Antibiotics & Obesity risks



- Exposure to antibiotics during the first 6 months of life associated with increases in body mass from 10 to 38 months
- Exposures later in infancy (6–14 months, 15–23 months) are not consistently associated with increased body mass
- Although effects of early exposures are modest at the individual level, they could have substantial consequences for population health.
- Given the prevalence of antibiotic exposures in infants & considering the growing concerns about childhood obesity, further studies are needed to isolate effects & define life-course implications for body mass and cardiovascular risks

PEDIATRIC ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Infant antibiotic exposures and early-life body mass

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- Authors point out:
- Obesity has many causes, many of which fall out of our hands
- We need to identify & manage the risk factors that we CAN modify
- Antibiotics use only when clearly needed
- Whenever possible narrow spectrum antibiotics should be prescribed over broad spectrum antibiotics
- Prescription of broad spectrum antibiotics may be a modifiable risk factor that is truly in the hands of the physician

Can we prevent obesity by modulation of gut microbiota?

- **Prebiotics**: food ingredient that cannot be digested by host
- beneficial effects on the host result from the selective stimulation of growth and/or activity of the gut microbiota, particularly lactobacilli and bifidobacteria.
- Common prebiotics include inulin, other oligosaccharides, lactulose and resistant starch
- Fermented dietary fibers
- Leek (cebollin), asparagus, Jerusalem artichoke (apio), garlic, onion, wheat, banana, oats, soybeans

Lim CC, *Mol. Nutr. Food Res.* 2005



Prebiotics and GLP-1

- Gut hormones such as glucagon-like-peptide-1 (GLP-1) play a critical role in relaying signals of nutritional and energy status from the gut to the central nervous system in order to control food intake.
- **GLP-1 is upregulated by prebiotics** in obese mice suggesting that alterations in intestinal microflora may stimulate or suppress the secretion of gastrointestinal hormones
- In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 16 adults,
 - administration of an inulin-like prebiotic fiber →
 - significant decrease in hunger
 - significantly greater satiation after a meal
 - increased plasma GLP-1 compared to a similar-tasting placebo (dextrin/maltose)
- These results suggest that prebiotics may be useful for controlling food intake.

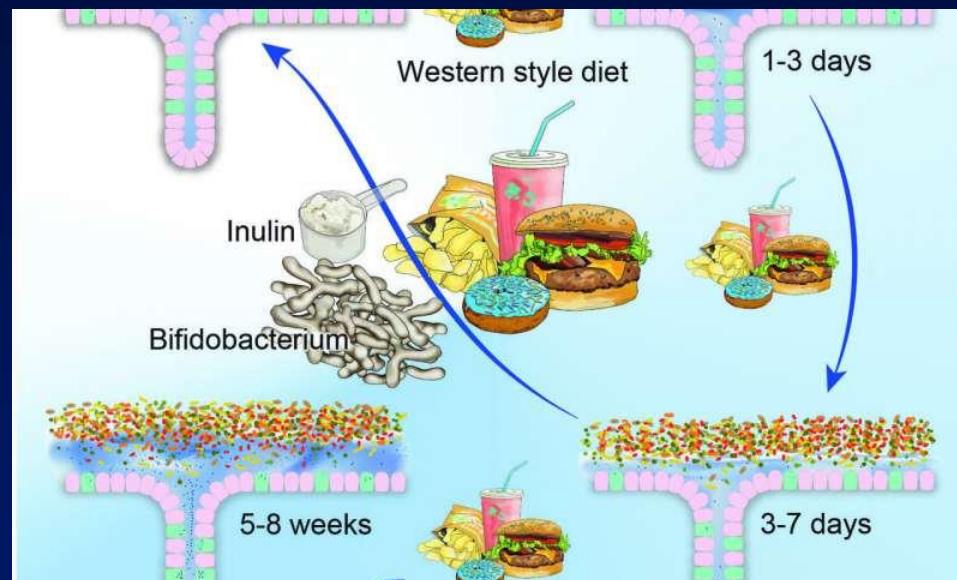
Human Obesity, Microbiome & Diet



- Can diet influence the composition of the gut microbiota?

Human Obesity, Microbiome & Diet

- The composition of the intestinal microbiota is strongly affected by dietary patterns



- A high- fat and high-sugar “Western-style” diet increases the relative abundance of *Firmicutes* at the expense of *Bacteroidetes* in animal models.

- **Host genetics**
- **Dietary intake influence?**



Microbiome composition is not fixed and can be influenced by several dietary components.

Altered nutrient load can induce rapid changes in gut bacterial community

- ...possibility that manipulating the gut microbiota could facilitate weight loss or prevent obesity in humans.
- possible treatment or prevention strategies: restore or modulate microbiota composition through
 - consumption of live bacteria (probiotics)
 - nondigestible or limited digestible food constituents such as oligosaccharides (prebiotics), or both (synbiotics)
 - even fecal transplants



Probiotics

- “live microorganisms which when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host.”
- Probiotics are usually provided in processed foods or in dietary supplements.
 - Yogurt, cheese, fermented and unfermented milks, juices, smoothies, cereal, nutrition bars, and infant/toddler formula are potential foods
 - ingested strains do not become established members of the normal microbiota but may persist only during periods of dosing or for relatively short periods afterwards.
 - human studies :probiotics may be beneficial against obesity but the data are less consistent
 - One meta- analysis has suggested that probiotics may promote weight loss in adults but weight gain in children



Probiotics

- The effects of probiotics might not only depend on the strain but also on characteristics of the host
- including age
- baseline body weight

Synbiotics

- Combination of probiotic with prebiotic- promotes bacterial survival and growth in the intestinal track

Davis C, *Nutri.Today* 2017





Poop in a Pill

It's no joke. *Clostridium difficile*, or C-diff, causes debilitating diarrhea and is linked to 14,000 deaths in the U.S. every year.

Fecal transplantation—the delivery of pre-screened, healthy donor stool to a patient by colonoscopy or nasogastric tube—is typically prescribed as an effective alternative to long-term antibiotic use in treating this infectious disease. But new research co-authored by Boston Children's Pediatric Gastroenterologist Dr. George Russell, says there is a third, less invasive, less expensive option to treat C-diff: poop in a pill.

A group of physicians from Boston Children's, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Tel Aviv University conducted a clinical trial with 20 patients and found:

Initial treatment

Symptoms resolved in 14 of the 20 patients.



Second try

This time symptoms cleared up in 4 of the 6 patients who did not respond at first.



= 90% success



Boston Children's Hospital

Until every child is well®

Learn more at bostonchildrens.org/fecaltransplant



Fecal transplants



- **Dangers associated**

- not possible to eliminate viral pathogens
- should only be used as a final treatment such as recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infection
- fecal microbial transplants may also have adverse effects on obesity
 - *Alang N et al* published a case report of patient who underwent a successful fecal microbial transplant for C Diff infection but then developed new-onset obesity after receiving stool from an overweight donor.



- **These data suggest that the microbial composition can be transmissible and that manipulation of the intestinal microflora may be a potential therapeutic target for the prevention of obesity.**

Davis C, *Nutri.Today* 2017

Alang N. Weight gain after fecal microbiota transplantation. *Open Forum Infect. Dis.* 2015

Clinical Evaluation: History

- Age of onset of obesity
- Nutritional History
 - binge eating disorder (30% of pts in wt loss programs) *Decaluwe et al, 2003*
 - Breast feeding vs formula
 - Age of introduction to solids
 - Caloric intake
 - Nutrients
 - Juice and soda intake
- Family history
 - hx of bariatric surgery
- Psychosocial History
- Level of physical activity
 - » Limitations due to weight, orthopedic issues
- Menarche and menstrual history
- History of co-morbidities



Hypertension

Hypertension if systolic or diastolic blood pressure $>95^{\text{th}}$ percentile for age, gender, and height on ≥ 3 occasions

Essential hypertension, renal disease, or Cushing syndrome



Childhood Obesity and Impact on the Kidney

Liane Correia-Costa et al,
Nephron clinical practice 2018

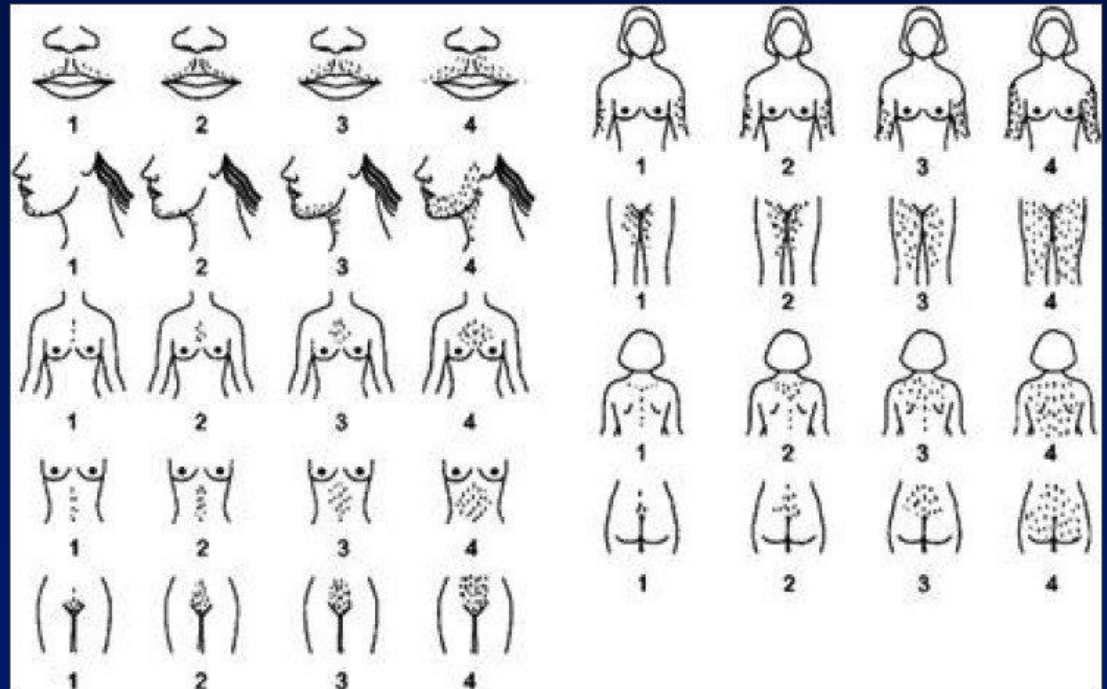
Obesity is associated with cardiovascular and metabolic comorbidities.

Data of role of obesity in the risk of kidney disease in adults, independently of diabetes, has started to become more available.

Pediatrics: obesity acts as a risk factor for disease progression when kidney impairment already exists, increasing risk of death among children with end-stage renal disease (ESRD)

Also there is evidence that otherwise healthy overweight and obese children have a significant increase in the risk of all-cause ESRD later in life.

Acanthosis nigricans	Hyperpigmented, thickened, velvety skin in body folds and creases, particularly neck	Increased risk of insulin resistance
Excessive acne, hirsutism	Hirsutism – Excessive growth of hair in atypical areas, such as face and neck	Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)



Ferriman and Gallwey score

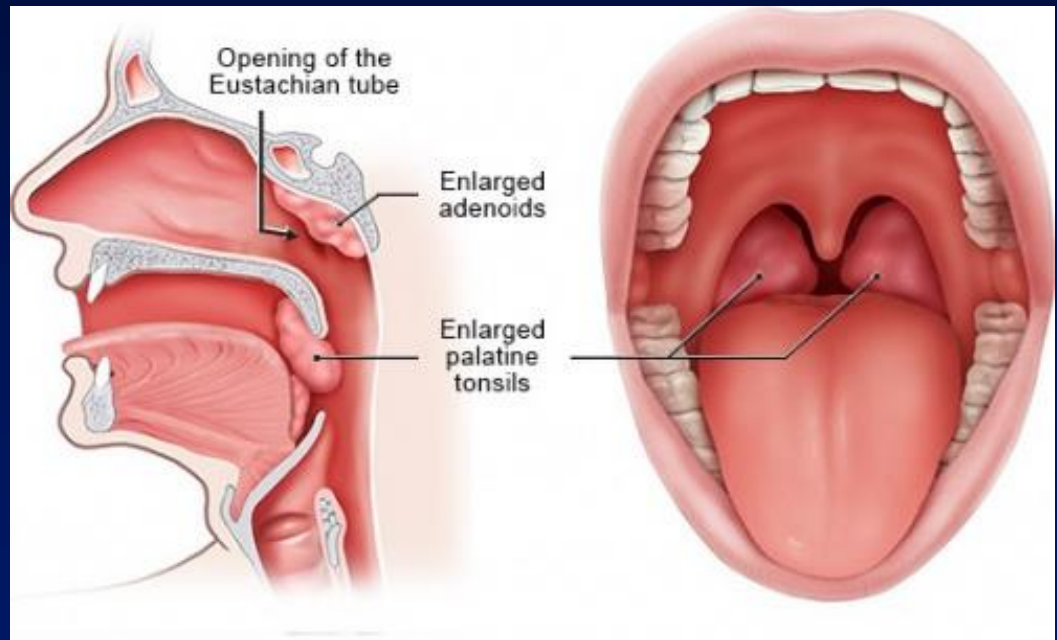
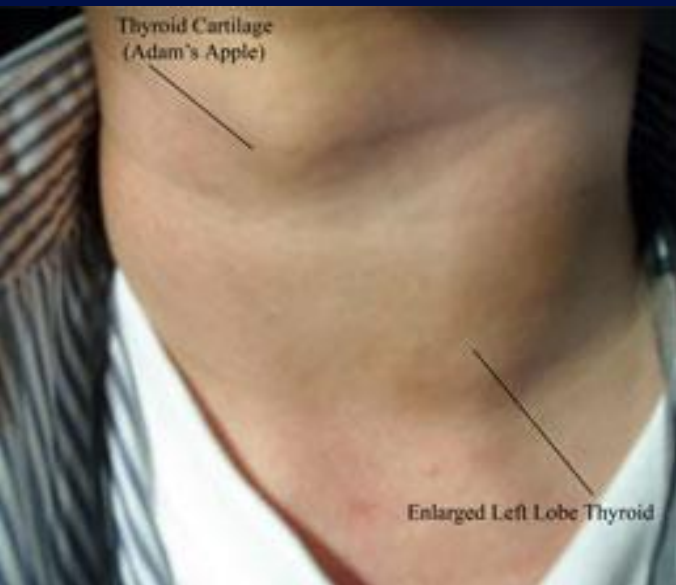
Look for physical examination of eating disorders

- *Reflux from vomiting led to acidic dissolution of the lingual side of the maxillary incisors in this patient*

BDJ 2014



Tonsillar hypertrophy	Tonsils occupy more than 50% of the lateral dimension of oropharynx	Obstructive sleep apnea
Goiter	Enlarged or swollen thyroid gland	Hypothyroidism



Wheezing	High-pitched whistling on auscultation	Asthma
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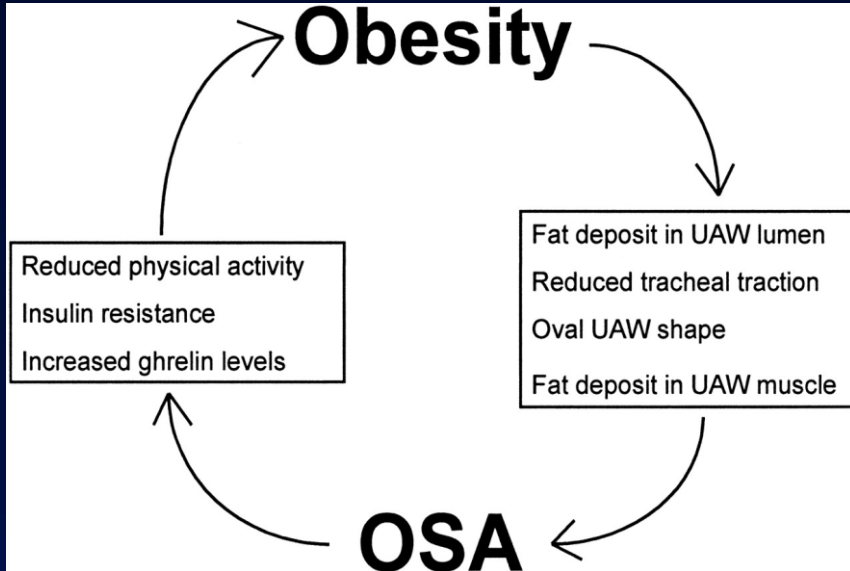
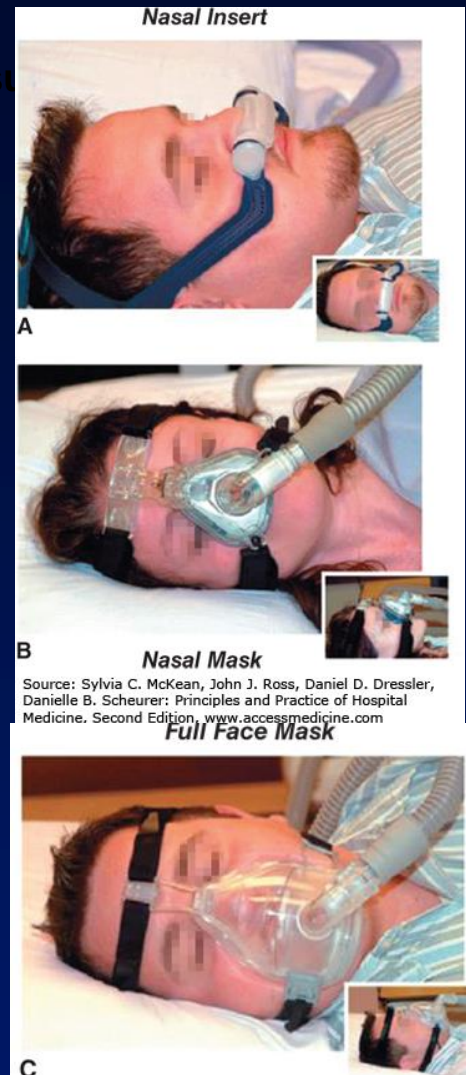


Table 1—

A brief summary of most studies investigating the association of OSA with various hormones and the effects of treatment with CPAP

	Effect on appetite	Level in OSA	Effect of CPAP
Insulin	Decrease	Increased (insulin resistance)	Decrease
Leptin	Decrease	Increased (leptin resistance)	Decrease
Ghrelin	Increase	Increased	Decrease
Orexin	Increase	Conflicting results	Increase

If patient is on CPAP treatment but not on dietary management, CPAP treatment may contribute to weight gain



Obesity & Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Mao Y, Goulden PA. The impact of CPAP on intensive calorie restriction weight loss. Presented at: ENDO 2019; March 23-26, 2019; New Orleans, LA. Abstract SAT-095.

- “This is the first study that actually showed that simultaneous CPAP treatment and dietary management enhances patients’ weight loss.
- Patient with obesity on dietary management & CPAP treatment, CPAP treatment can contribute to further weight loss,
- Start CPAP treatment immediately because it can actually help weight loss.
- Once you have lost weight successfully, then reassess if you still need CPAP treatment or not

- .

Thyroid dysfunction in Obesity

Altered Thyroid Function and Structure in Children and Adolescents Who Are Overweight and Obese: Reversal After Weight Loss

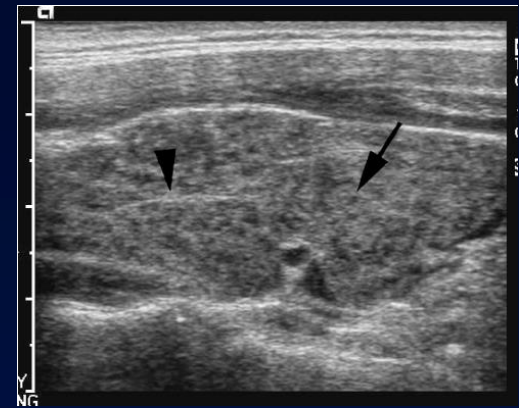
Maria Rosaria Licenziati ✉, Giuliana Valerio, Ilaria Vetrani, Gaetano De Maria, Fabrizia Liotta, Giorgio Radetti

The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Volume 104, Issue 7, July 2019, Pages 2757–2765, <https://doi.org/10.1210/jc.2018-02399>

Published: 15 March 2019 **Article history ▼**

Thyroid dysfunction in obesity

- Obese patients frequently show an altered thyroid function
-
- US findings resembling Hashimoto thyroiditis in the absence of thyroid disease.



- Possible etiologic factors:
 - Impaired sodium/iodide symporter function Ajjan RA, *JEndocrinol* 1998
 - Leading to a compensatory TSH elevation
 - Inflammatory status related to cytokines
 - Might explain the abnormal ultrasound findings

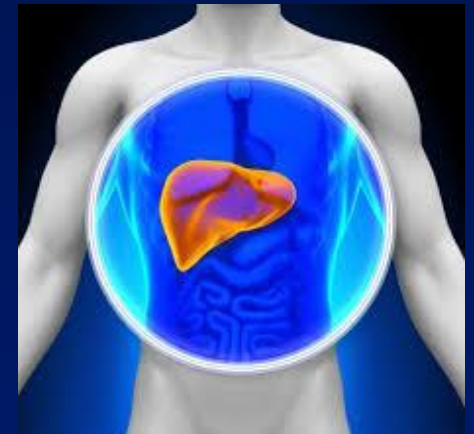
- **The alterations of thyroid function and structure in children with obesity are reversible after weight loss**

NaäslundE *J Intern Med.* 2000

Hepatomegaly,
right upper quadrant
tenderness

Increased liver span

Nonalcoholic fatty
liver disease or
gallstones



Micropenis

Unusually small penis

In most cases, the small-appearing penis is actually normal size;
the length is buried under suprapubic fat

Undescended testes

Testicle not palpable in scrotum

Prader-Willi syndrome

Figura 2. Hipotonía neonatal con postura "en libro abierto". Criptorquidia bilateral con pene de tamaño y morfología normal. Dolicocefalia



Papilledema, cranial nerve
VI paralysis

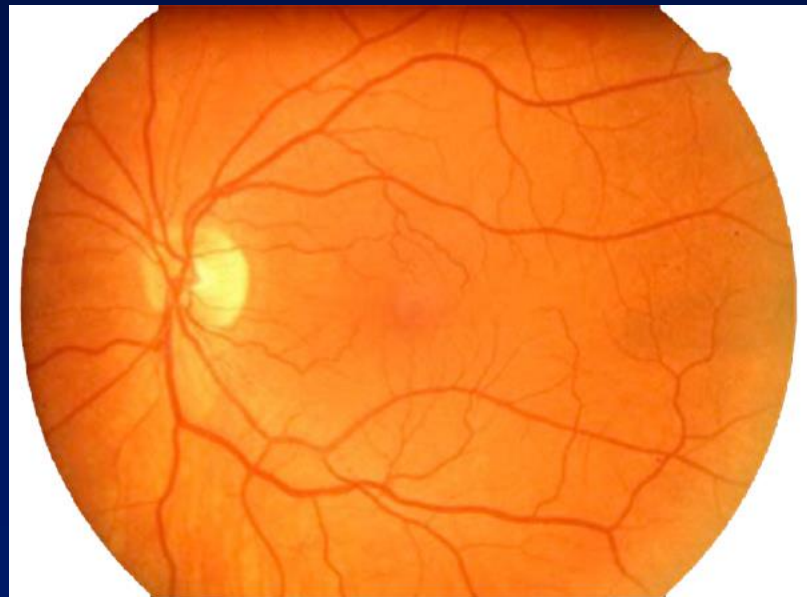
Optic disc swelling on
fundusoscopic examination,
caused by increased
intracranial pressure

Pseudotumor cerebri
(idiopathic intracranial
hypertension)



Copyright 2009, The University of Iowa

Leslie Pham, Michael Wall, Eye Rounds.org, 2009



Normal fundusoscopic examination

fundusoscopic image showing the optic cup, optic disc, fovea, macula, arteries and veins. We see normal color, pigment and vascular distribution

Jones BW, Marc RE, Pfeiffer RL, 2016 Oct

Obesity & Migraines

SAT-108 Effects of Bariatric and Non-Bariatric Weight Loss on Migraine Headache in Obesity. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Angelo Di Vincenzo, MD, Marco Beghetto, Fellow, Roberto Vettor, MD, Marco Rossato, MD, PhD, Dale Bond, PhD, [Claudio Pagano, MD, PhD](#)

Journal of the Endocrine Society, Volume 3, Issue Supplement_1, April-May 2019, SAT-108, <https://doi.org/10.1210/js.2019-SAT-108>

Published: 30 April 2019

- In patients with obesity & comorbid migraine attacks, weight loss reduces:

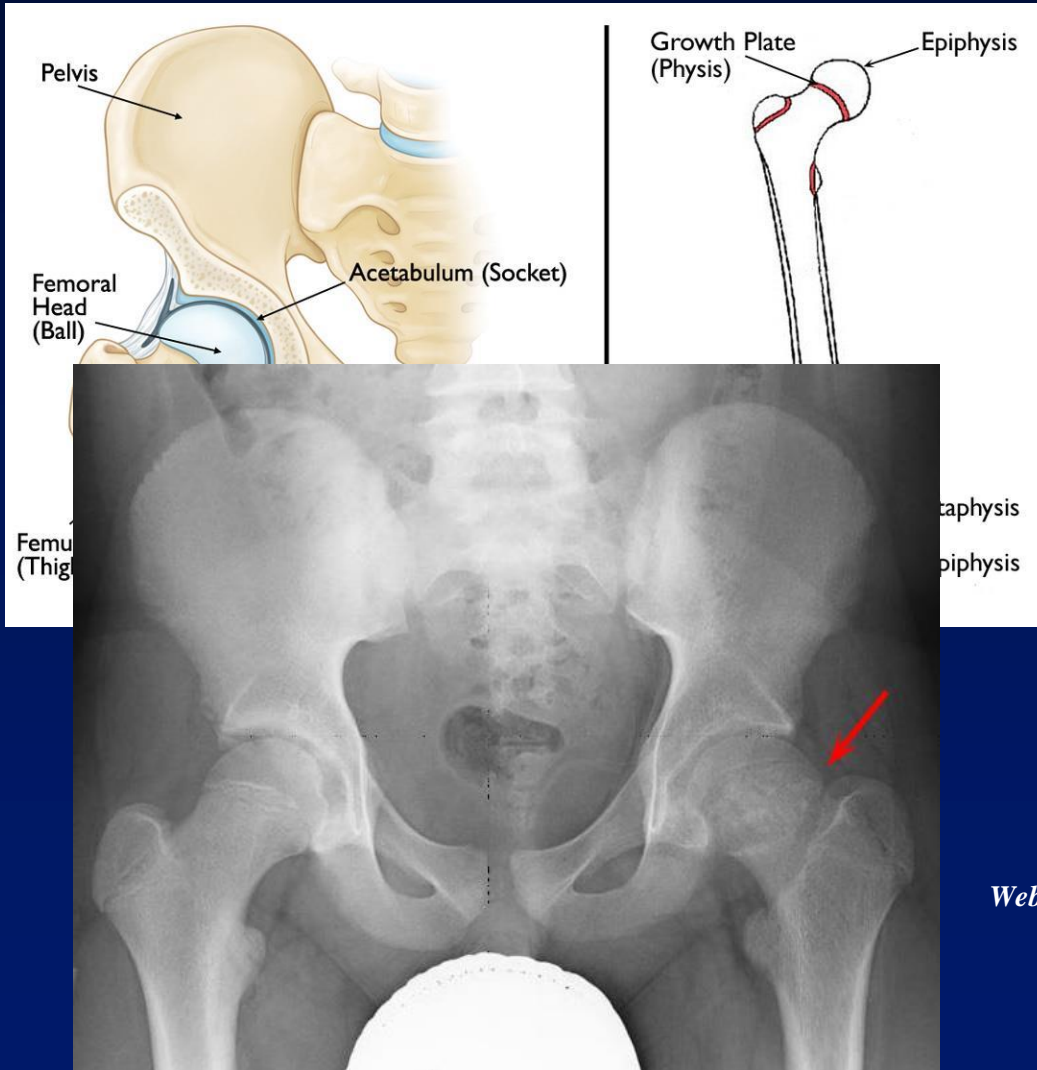
- pain severity
- frequency
- duration of attack
- improves quality of life



- independently of both the type of weight loss intervention and the amount of weight loss.
- Unclear mechanisms, possible roles of alterations in chronic inflammation, adipocytokines, obesity comorbidities (i.e. OSAS), & overlapping behavioral & psychological risk factors

Abnormal gait, limp,
pain in hip or groin,
limited range of motion
in hip

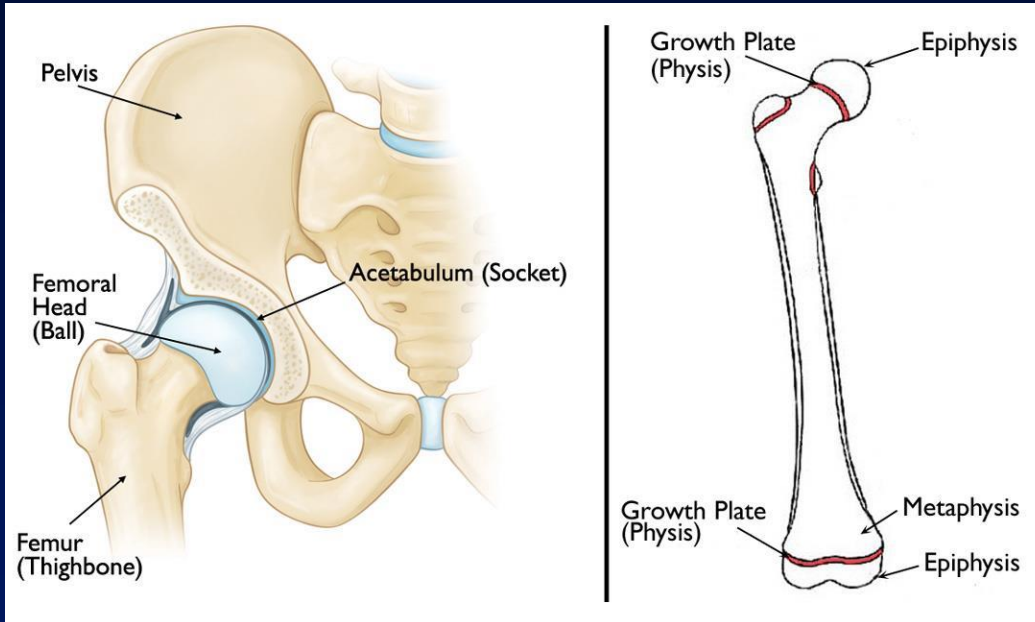
Slipped capital femoral
epiphysis (SCFE)



Weber MD et al, *Orthopaedic Knowledge Online Journal* 2008

Abnormal gait, limp,
pain in hip or groin,
limited range of motion
in hip

Slipped capital femoral
epiphysis (SCFE)



Weber MD et al, *Orthopaedic Knowledge Online Journal* 2008

Bowing of tibia

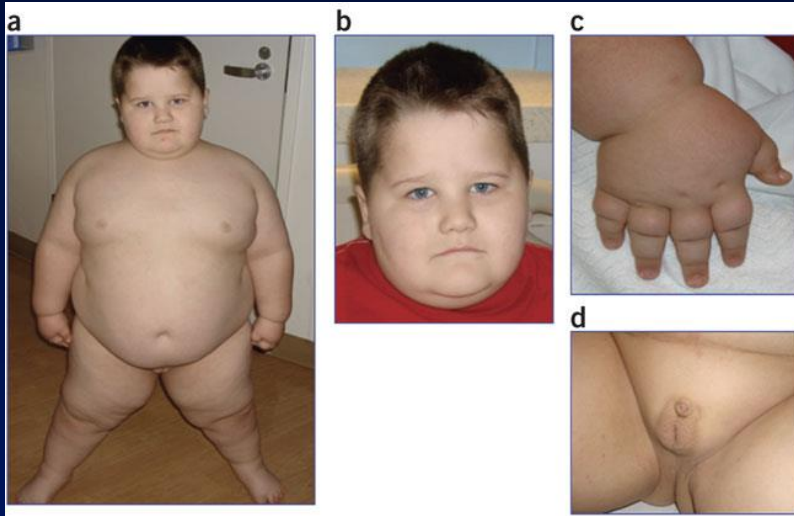
Lower leg angles
inward causing a
bowleg appearance

Blount disease



Small hands and feet,
or polydactyly, retinal
disease, kidney
abnormalities

Genetic condition (eg,
Prader-Willi syndrome or
Bardet-Biedl syndrome)



Prader-Willi syndrome is # 1
genetic cause of life-threatening childhood
obesity



Bardet-Biedl syndrome

Retinal dystrophy, obesity, post-axial polydactyly, renal
dysfunction, learning difficulties and hypogonadism.

Forsythe E, *European Journal of Human Genetics* 2013

Genetic testing

Obesity	
<input type="checkbox"/> 884 Early Onset Obesity Evaluation	LEPR, MC4R
<input type="checkbox"/> 883 Early Onset Obesity (LEPR) DNA Sequencing Test	
<input type="checkbox"/> 640 Early Onset Obesity (MC4R) DNA Sequencing Test	
<input type="checkbox"/> 887 Bardet-Biedl Syndrome Evaluation	BBS1, BBS2, BBS10
<input type="checkbox"/> 871 BBS1 (BBS) DNA Sequencing Test	
<input type="checkbox"/> 872 BBS2 (BBS) DNA Sequencing Test	
<input type="checkbox"/> 886 BBS10 (BBS) DNA Sequencing Test	

- **Extreme early onset obesity**
 - before age 5
- **Features of genetic obesity syndromes**
 - Hyperphagia
 - Family hx of extreme obesity

Prader Willi- “methylation analysis,” >99% of cases, including genetic subtypes of PWS (deletion, uniparental disomy, or imprinting mutation).

“FISH” (fluorescent in-situ hybridization) test will identify those patients with PWS due to a deletion, but it will not identify those who have Prader-Willi syndrome by “UPD” (uniparental disomy) or an imprinting error.

Lab Assessments

- T4, TSH, T3 uptake
- Lipid profiles
- Comprehensive Metabolic panel
- Urine analysis
- HbA1C
- CPG Endocrine Society no Insulin testing
- Other tests (depending on clinical findings)
 - CBC
 - 2 hr OGTT
 - CXR
 - EKG / echo
 - Pulmonary function tests
 - Sleep study
 - Skin fold measurements
 - Urine microalbumin

What NOT to do

- Avoid directly or indirectly assigning blame
- Avoid the term “fat” or “morbid”
- Avoid scare tactics

Bariatric surgery



- Durable, effective
- Tanner 4 or 5 pubertal development
- Final or near final adult height

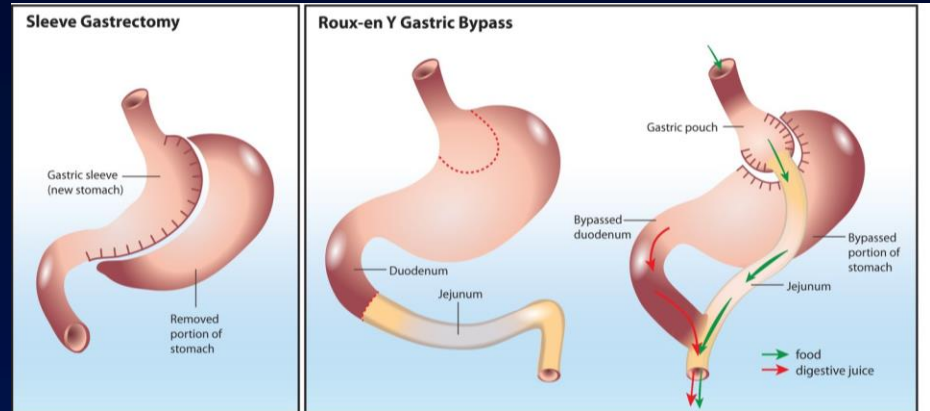
BMI > 40

or BMI 35-39.9 + serious comorbidity

- Only method that reliably promotes major, long term weight loss

Bariatric Surgery in Adolescents

- Roux-en-y gastric bypass
- Laparoscopic adjustable banding
- Vertical sleeve gastrectomy
- Multidisciplinary team evaluation required
- Commitment to comprehensive medical and psychological care
- limitations:
 - high cost
 - risks
 - Invasiveness
 - Post surgical complications
nutritional deficiencies, anemia, osteoporosis;
pulmonary infection, atelectasis or emboli,
stomach or bowel obstruction,
dumping syndrome, cholecystitis,
GI leakage, wound infections



Bariatric Surgery & the Microbiome

Conserved Shifts in the Gut Microbiota Due to Gastric Bypass Reduce Host Weight and Adiposity

Alice P. Liou¹, Melissa Paziuk¹, Jesus-Mario Luevano Jr.², Sriram Machineni¹, Peter J. Turnbaugh^{2,*}, and Lee M. Kaplan^{1,*}

¹Obesity, Metabolism & Nutrition Institute and Gastrointestinal Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114, USA.

²FAS Center for Systems Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.



Mouse model test: Gastric bypass surgery to characterize gut microbiota changes
Changes in microbiota seen in the bariatric surgery
No changes seen in sham procedure and calorie restricted diet and weight loss.

Transfer of the surgically **gastric bypass altered microbial community** to non-operated germ-free mice resulted in **weight loss despite higher food intake**

> Than that received the microbiota from the sham surgery animals.

This was associated with alterations in the microbiota composition.

Specific alterations in the gut microbiota contribute to the beneficial effects of bariatric surgery on energy balance and obesity

Pharmacologic therapy for obesity

- After failure of a 6-month course of lifestyle modification despite intensive efforts
- Not achieved -4% BMI/BMI z score at 12 weeks?
 - Discontinue meds

Medications: Orlistat

- Orlistat= Xenical

- inhibits pancreatic and GI lipase and increases fecal losses of triglycerides
- Inhibition of absorption up to 1/3 fat intake

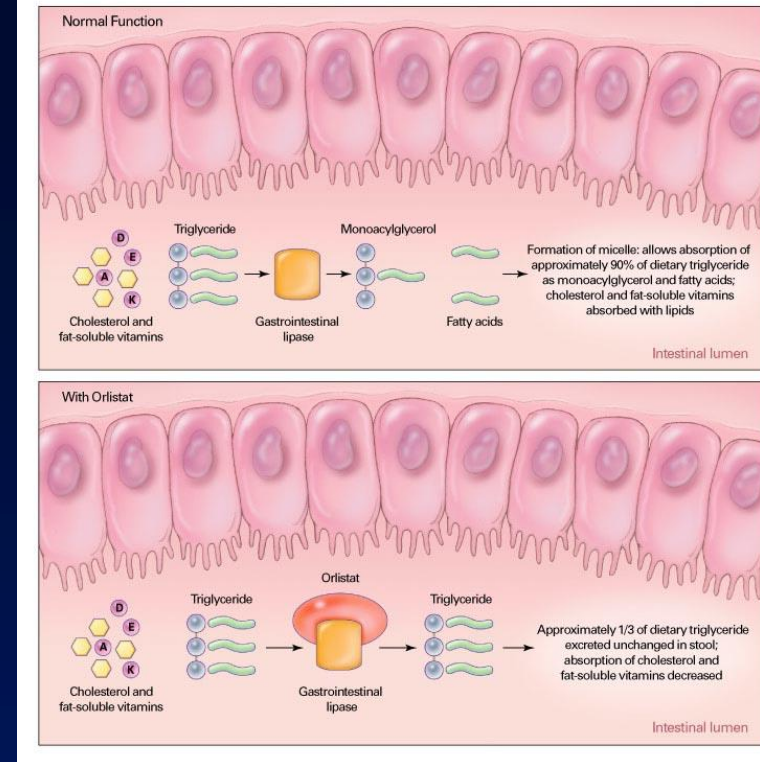
- FDA approved kids > 12 yrs

- Mean wt loss 3.75 Kg. Max < 10%
 - Not nearly enough for most of the obese
 - may improve metabolic health

- Vitamin A, D, E, K deficiency

- Side effects: bloating, flatulence, and stool leakage

- Unless daily habits change, weight gain follows discontinuation



Yanovski S, NEJM 2002

Metformin

- **Advocated for children with obesity and pre-diabetes with insulin resistance and PCOS**
- **Enhances insulin sensitivity, leading to reduced appetite and body weight**
- **it is not a weight loss treatment**
 - **Usefulness in children taking atypical psychotropic meds ?**
- **best weight-loss response observed in adolescents who initially had the greatest level of insulin resistance**
- **Diabetes Prevention Program reported 1-3 Kg loss**

Srinivasan S et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2006

Klein DJ et al. *Am J Psychiatry* 2006

Lustig RH et al. *J Pediatr*, 2006

Kay JP et al. *Metabolism* 2001

Summary : Therapies

- Prevention is critical because effective treatment is limited
- Limited efficacy long term of pharmacologic Rx
 - Serious Chronic condition
 - Needs long term success not short-term gains
- Although pediatricians use many medications “Off label” pharmacological therapy for pediatric obesity should be restricted to large, well controlled clinical trial studies

Summary

- **Routine laboratory evaluations for endocrine etiologies for pediatric obesity are usually not recommended unless the patient's stature and/or height velocity are attenuated**
 - **-assessed in relationship to genetic/familial & pubertal stage**

- Pediatric Obesity Clinical practice guidelines, Styne et al, *JCEM* 2017

Summary

- Children or teens with a BMI greater than or equal to the 85th percentile should be evaluated for related conditions such as metabolic syndrome and diabetes.
- Specific genetic testing should be considered when there is early onset obesity (before 5 years old), an increased drive to consume food (extreme hyperphagia), other clinical findings of genetic obesity syndromes, or a family history of extreme obesity.
- Current evidence supports the potential role of human gut microbiota in obesity.

Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Evaluation and Management

Yanira Lynn Pagán-Carlo M.D.
Pediatric Endocrinology

Yes, please DO:

- ☐ Educate about obesity related health risks
- ☐ Review the growth chart to show that the child's weight is in an unhealthy range/ trend
- ☐ Risks persistence of obesity into adulthood, reduced mobility or athletic ability, & any personalized patient or family health concerns
- ☐ Unhealthy/ healthy weight
- ☐ “Late-day eating” is associated with obesity regardless of caloric intake, restricting the feeding window by shifting it earlier into the day might be a future potential weight-loss method.

Management



- **Nutrition consult**
 - Consider modified low glycemic meal plan
 - Avoid all sodas and juices
 - Reduce calorie dense foods
- **Behavioral Specialist Consult**
 - Binging in severely obese kids may have a genetic component
- Prepubertal kids: family approach
- Teens: consider separating parents and patients
- Goal for growing children is weight **stabilization**