

MetroHealth Medical Center
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Abstract Submission Form

Poster Title: The Relationship of Continuity of Care to Post-Bariatric Surgical Weight Loss

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Location of Laboratory:

Category: Health Care Research

Objective The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between preoperative continuity of care with a single obesity medicine (OM) provider and postoperative follow-up and weight loss following bariatric surgery in adults.

Setting A large academic, urban public health system

Methods Approved by the MetroHealth IRB as IRB21-00696: *Continuity in Bariatrics* on 11/29/2021. Adult patients who had bariatric surgery between 2016 to 2021 were identified. Visits from 24 months prior to surgery with OM providers were reviewed. The rate of continuity of care (CC) was calculated using the number of visits with the most seen OM provider/the total number of visits with all OM medicine providers to equal the percent CC. The relationship between CC before surgery and follow-up and weight loss after surgery were assessed. A mixed model repeated measures analysis was conducted to determine the effect of continuity of care on weight loss. Statistical Analysis System (SAS) was used for statistical analysis.

Results During the review period, 994 patients had bariatric surgery at the study system. The rate of pre-surgical CC was 76.22%. After surgery, follow-up rates peaked at 3 months (66.45%) and were lowest at 24 months (18.79%). CC had a positive linear relationship to post-surgical weight loss ($p=0.025$) and rate of post-operative follow-up ($p < 0.001$). No significant relationship was shown between pre-operative continuity and times of post-operative follow-up ($p=0.965$)

Conclusions Improving pre-operative CC with an OM provider for bariatric surgical patients can improve weight loss and follow up.

Keywords: Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, (RYGB), Sleeve Gastrectomy (SL), Continuity of Care, Weight loss