

Complication rate after bariatric surgery higher for black patients

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(HealthDay)—Black patients have higher rates of 30-day complications

and resource use than white patients after bariatric surgery, according to a study published online March 6 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Michael H. Wood, M.D., from Harper University Hospital and Wayne State University in Detroit, and colleagues examined the effect of race on perioperative and one-year outcomes of bariatric surgery in a [propensity score](#)-matched cohort of black and white patients (7,105 in each group).

The researchers found that the rate of any 30-day complication was higher for [black patients](#) (8.8 versus 6.8 percent; adjusted odds ratio, 1.33); rates of serious complications and mortality did not differ significantly between the groups. Black patients had a longer length of stay (mean, 2.2 versus 1.9 days; adjusted odds ratio, 0.30) and an increased rate of emergency department visits (11.6 versus 7.6 percent; adjusted odds ratio, 1.60) and readmissions (5.8 versus 3.5 percent; adjusted odds ratio, 1.73). Black patients had lower mean total body weight loss at one year (32.0 kg [26.0 percent] versus 38.3 kg [29 percent]). At one year, fewer black than [white patients](#) reported a good or very good quality of life (87.2 versus 90.4 percent) and being satisfied with the surgery (78.4 versus 84.2 percent).

"Racial and [cultural differences](#) among patients should be considered when designing strategies to optimize outcomes with [bariatric surgery](#)," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan/Blue Care Network.

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