How does Income, Education, and Employment Affect Patient Reported Outcomes in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Patients? A Preoperative Cross-sectional Analysis

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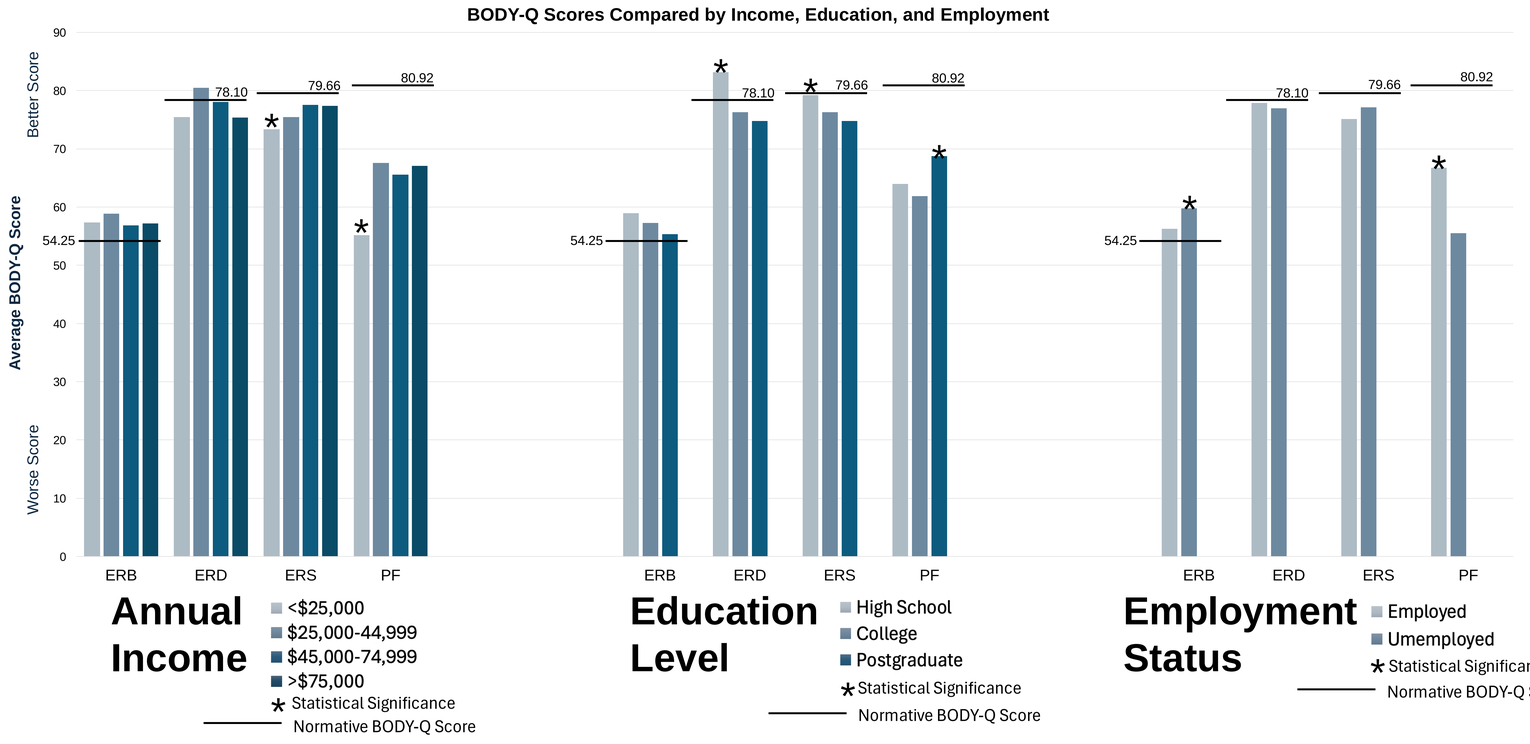
Background

- Studies have shown varying results when evaluating how income, education level, and employment status affect obesity
- There are limited studies evaluating how these factors impact patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in metabolic and bariatric surgery patients
- **Hypothesis**: We hypothesize that patients with social and economic inequities will have worse eating-related (ER) behavior, distress, and symptoms

Methods

- Metabolic and bariatric surgery patients were given the BODY-Q ER Modules and Physical Function questionnaire at preoperative visits
- BODY-Q ER Modules – Scored 0-100 with 100 being optimal health
  - ER Behavior (ERB) - eating too fast
  - ER Distress (ERD) - feeling embarrassed or ashamed
  - ER Symptoms (ERS) - pain or bloating
- BODY-Q Physical Function (PF) – Scored 0-100 with 100 being optimal health
- Average BODY-Q Scores were compared with ANOVA and Independent Sample t-tests

Figure 1. BODY-Q Scores Compared by Income, Education, and Employment



Results

- Number of Surveys: 980

Patients with income <$25,000 report worse ER symptoms and physical function

Patients with a high school education report less ER distress and ER symptoms

Employed patients report worse ER behavior and better physical function

Conclusion

- Patients with lower income reported more bothersome symptoms including pain and vomiting and worse physical function including difficulty with walking and standing
- There was a correlation with higher education levels and worse ER distress such as feeling embarrassed or ashamed and more bothersome symptoms like pain and bloating
- Employed patients reported worse ER behavior including feeling out of control or difficulty with eating the right amount
- These findings should be used to develop interventions to promote an optimal clinical response tailored to patient-level social and economic inequities



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