



OBESITY AND CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CHALLENGES

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Karolinska Institutet

DISCLOSURES

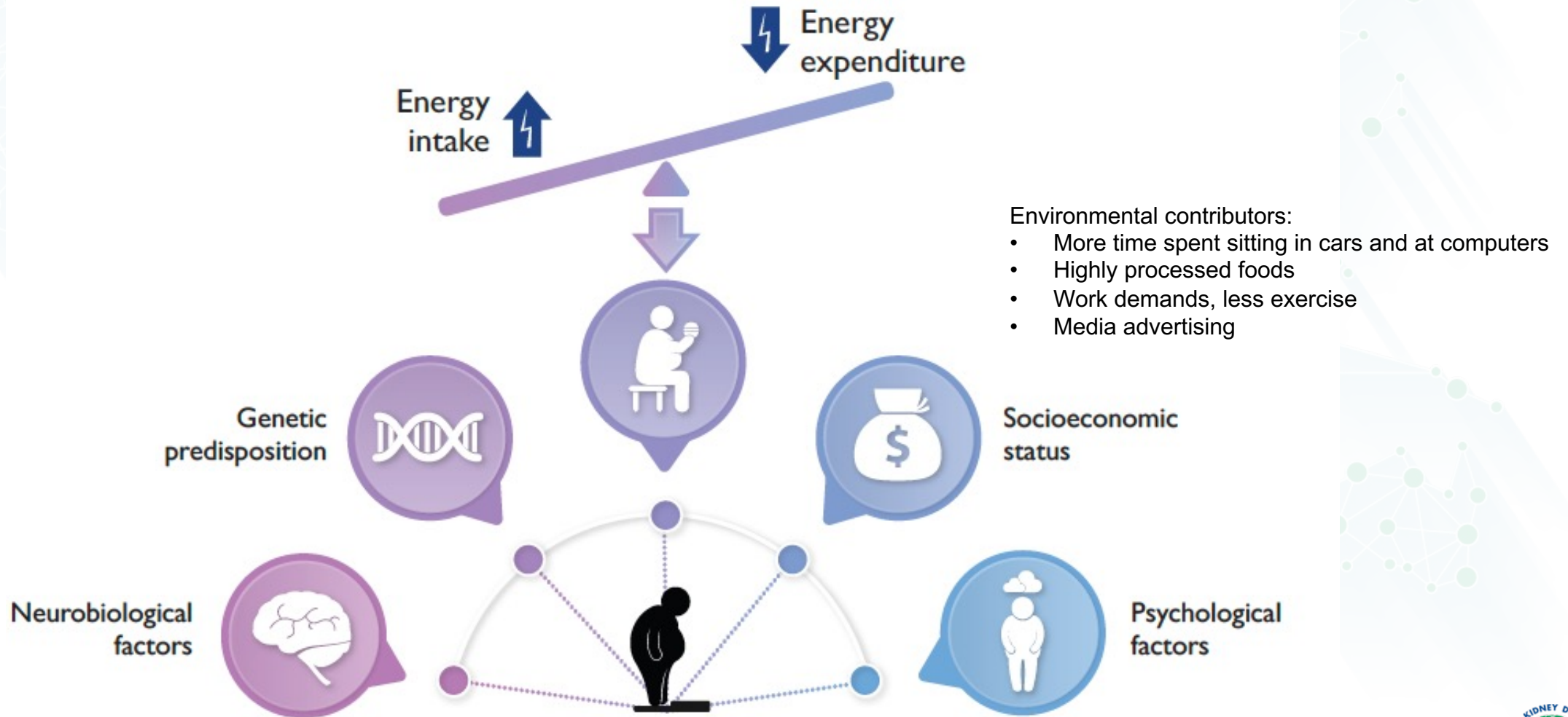
- Participation in the development of recent clinical guidelines by KDIGO, ESPEN and KDOQI
- Financial support to Karolinska Institutet from AstraZeneca, Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, MSD, Novordisk, ViforPharma
- Grant support to Karolinska Institutet from the Swedish Research Council, Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation, Rind and Westman Foundations, US National Institute of Health (NIH)
- Speaker or advisory board fees from Fresenius Kabi and AstraZeneca

Talk Outline (epi focus)

- Epidemic of obesity and projections
- Obesity as a risk factor for CKD
- Epidemic of CKD with obesity
- Challenges of living with CKD and obesity
- Challenges of BMI as a diagnostic tool in CKD

OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health.



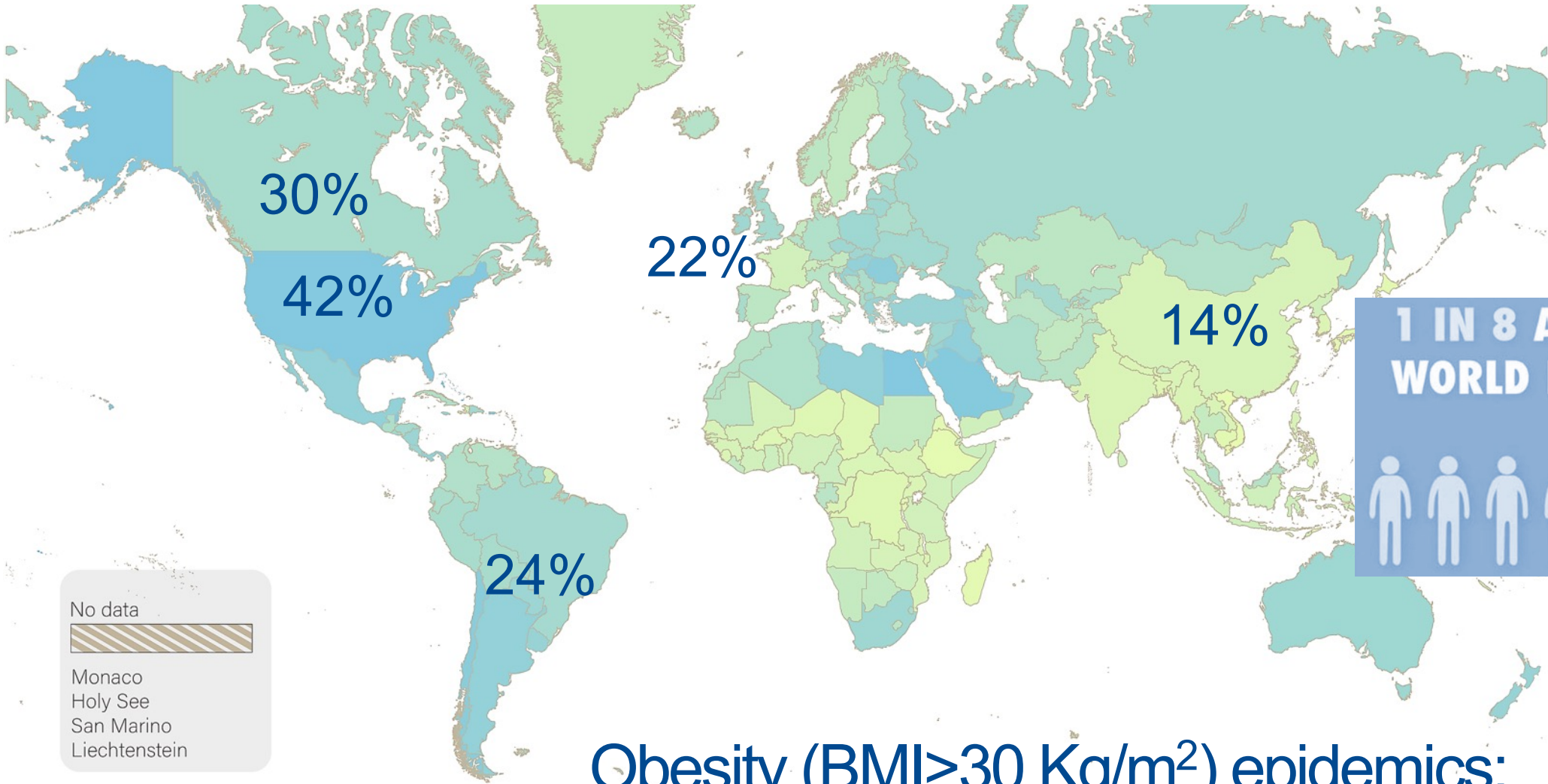


$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Weight in Kg}}{[\text{Height in meters}]^2}$$

Box 1 WHO classification of overweight and obesity in adults

- BMI 20 to <25 kg/m²: Normal weight
- BMI 25 to <30 kg/m²: Overweight
- BMI ≥30 kg/m²: Obesity
 - BMI 30 to <35 kg/m²: Obesity Class 1
 - BMI 35 to <40 kg/m²: Obesity Class 2
 - BMI ≥40 kg/m²: Obesity Class 3 (severe obesity)

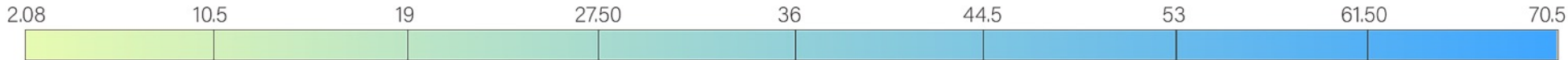
- **Obesity with BMI ≥35 kg/m² (Classes 2 and 3):** an almost entirely new phenotype from the recent decades.
- Most cases of obesity-related complications will arise from the much larger group with **overweight and Class 1 obesity**.
- **BMI** is useful for epidemiological studies, but limited as a diagnostic tool.



No data
 Monaco
 Holy See
 San Marino
 Liechtenstein

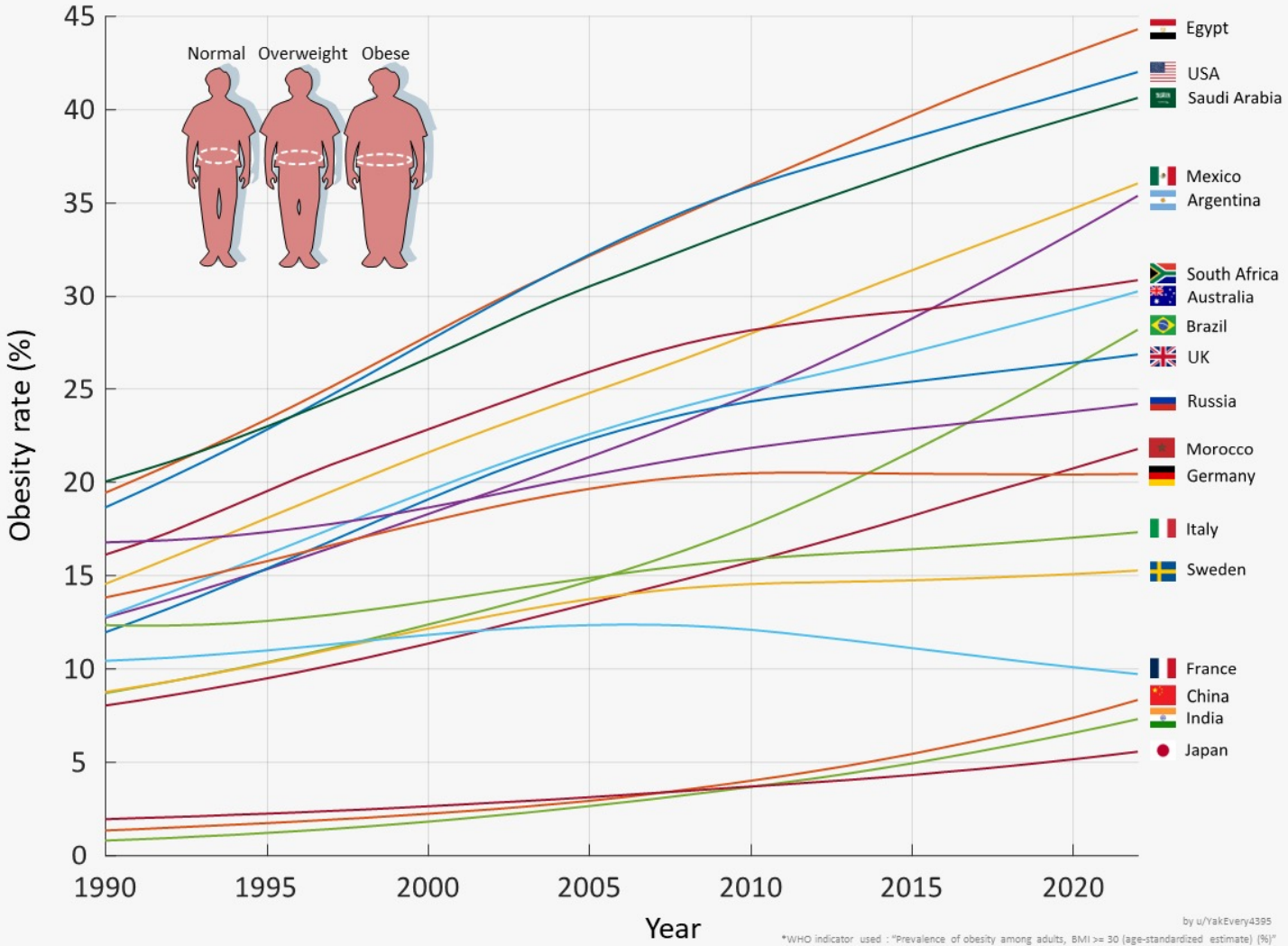
1 IN 8 ADULTS IN THE WORLD IS OBESE.

**Obesity (BMI>30 Kg/m²) epidemics:
 12.5% estimated prevalence in 2024**



OBESITY TRENDS: INCREASING IN (ALMOST) ALL COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Obesity rate by country
(BMI ≥ 30, data source: WHO*)



WHO estimates, 2023

Lancet. 2024 Mar 16;403(10431):1027-1050.



DISPROPORTIONALLY AFFECTING THE SOCIOECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED

**Obesogenic environment of
low income and food
insecurity**



limited resources



lack of healthy,
affordable food
access



cycles of food
deprivation & overeating



high levels of
stress, anxiety, &
depression



fewer opportunities
for physical activity



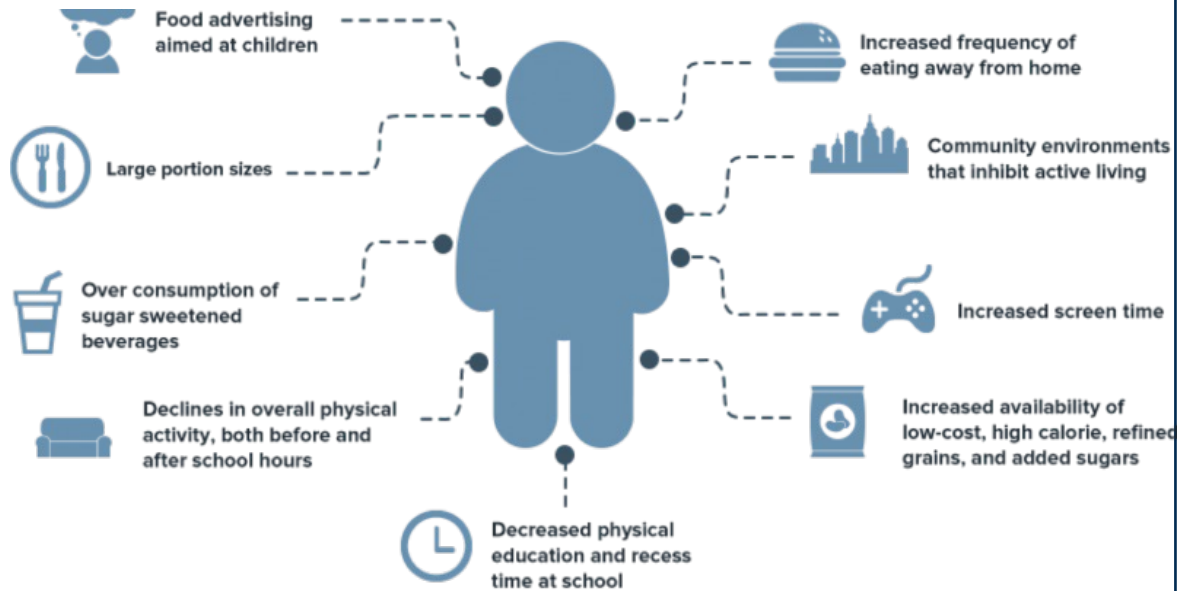
greater exposure to
food marketing



limited access to
health care

DISPROPORTIONALLY AFFECTING THE FUTURE GENERATIONS

Societal trends promote obesity in children



Thinness
Obesity

High-income English-speaking countries
Northwestern Europe
Southwestern Europe
Central Europe

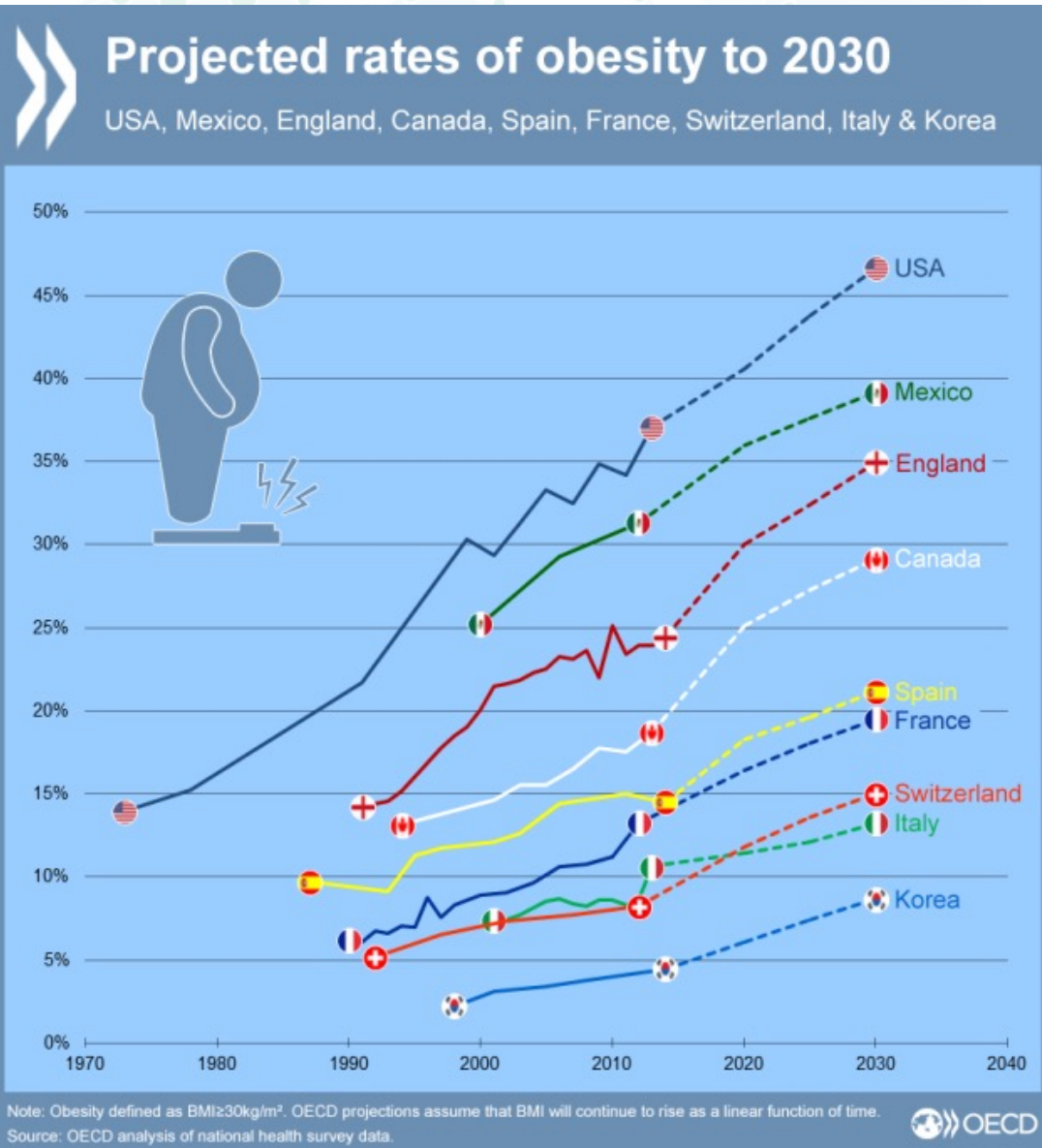
Eastern Europe
Southern Latin America
Central Latin America
Andean Latin America

The Caribbean
East Asia and the Pacific
Southeast Asia
South Asia

Central Asia
Middle East and north Africa
Polynesia and Micronesia
Melanesia

East Africa
West Africa
Central and southern Africa
Other sub-Saharan Africa

PROJECTIONS IN ADULTS



Pesimistic projections in adults assuming to rise as a linear function of time

24% of the global population will have obesity by 2035

Table 1.1: Global overweight and obesity 2020–2035

Numbers of people (aged over 5 years) and percentage of the population with overweight or obesity*

	2020	2025	2030	2035
Number with overweight or obesity (BMI $\geq 25 \text{kg/m}^2$) (millions)	2,603	3,041	3,507	4,005
Number with obesity (BMI $\geq 30 \text{kg/m}^2$) (millions)	988	1,249	1,556	1,914
Proportion of the population with overweight or obesity (BMI $\geq 25 \text{kg/m}^2$)	38%	42%	46%	51%
Proportion of the population with obesity (BMI $\geq 30 \text{kg/m}^2$)	14%	17%	20%	24%

* For children and adolescents, overweight and obesity are defined using the WHO classification of +1SD and +2SD above median growth reference.

World Obesity Federation, World Obesity Atlas 2023.
<https://data.worldobesity.org/publications/?cat=19>

PROJECTIONS IN CHILDREN

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Simulation of Growth Trajectories of Childhood Obesity into Adulthood

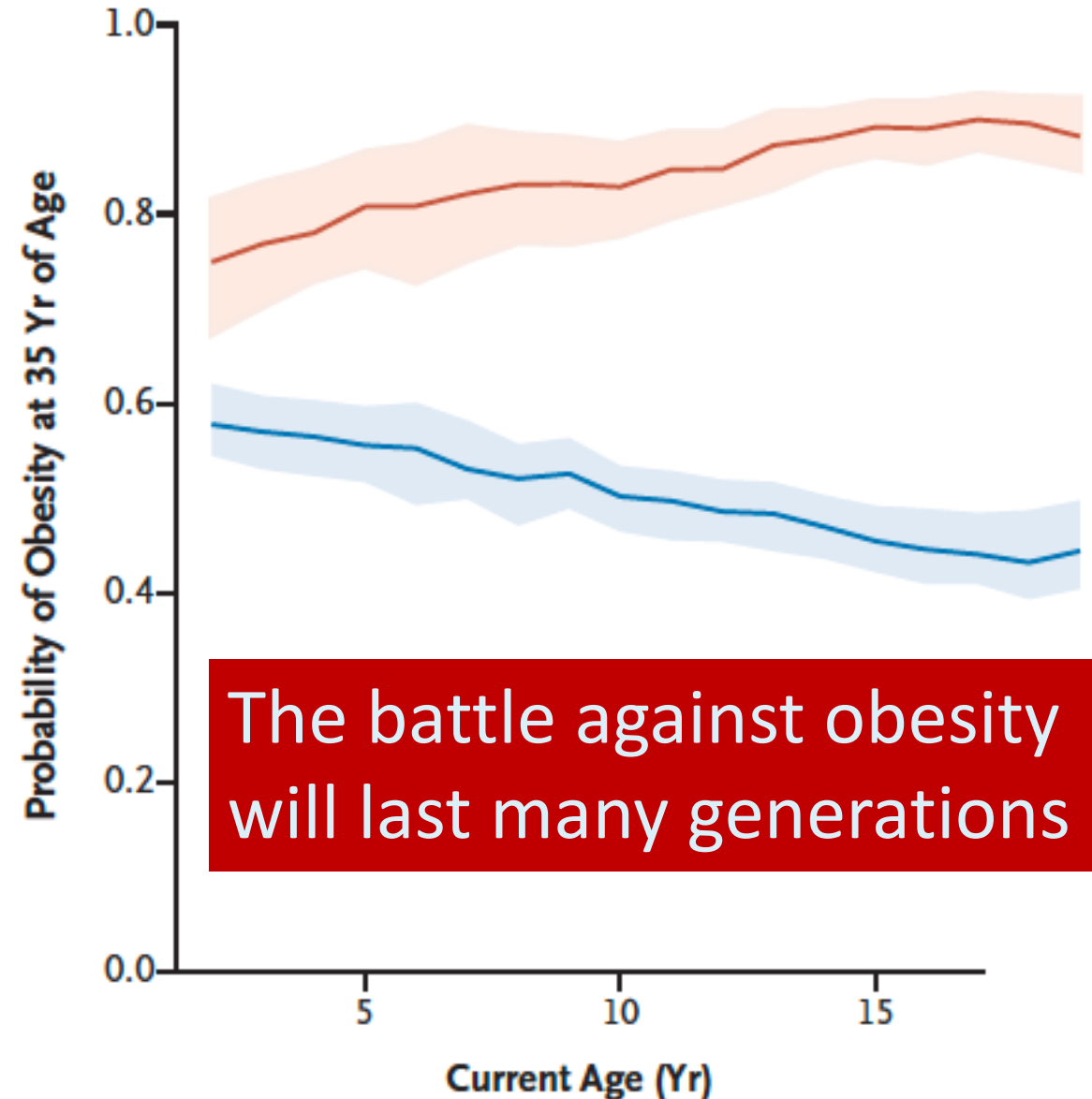
Zachary J. Ward, M.P.H., Michael W. Long, Sc.D., Stephen C. Resch, Ph.D.,
Catherine M. Giles, M.P.H., Angie L. Craddock, Sc.D.,
and Steven L. Gortmaker, Ph.D.

- 50-60% of today's non-obese children will become obese by age 35
- 75%-90% of today's obese children will remain obese by age 35.

The potential for reducing obesity prevalence in adults might be largely determined by leaner children entering adulthood, rather than reducing prevalence in the current generations of adults.

NEJM. 2017 Nov 30;377(22):2145-2153.

A Probability According to Current Obesity Status and Age



HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF OBESITY

In general-medicine reviews, CKD is seldom recognized as a consequence of obesity.

- Not recognized by WHO or Center for Diseases Control (CDS) in the US
- Described as a consequence of other obesity-related complications: diabetes, hypertension and CVD

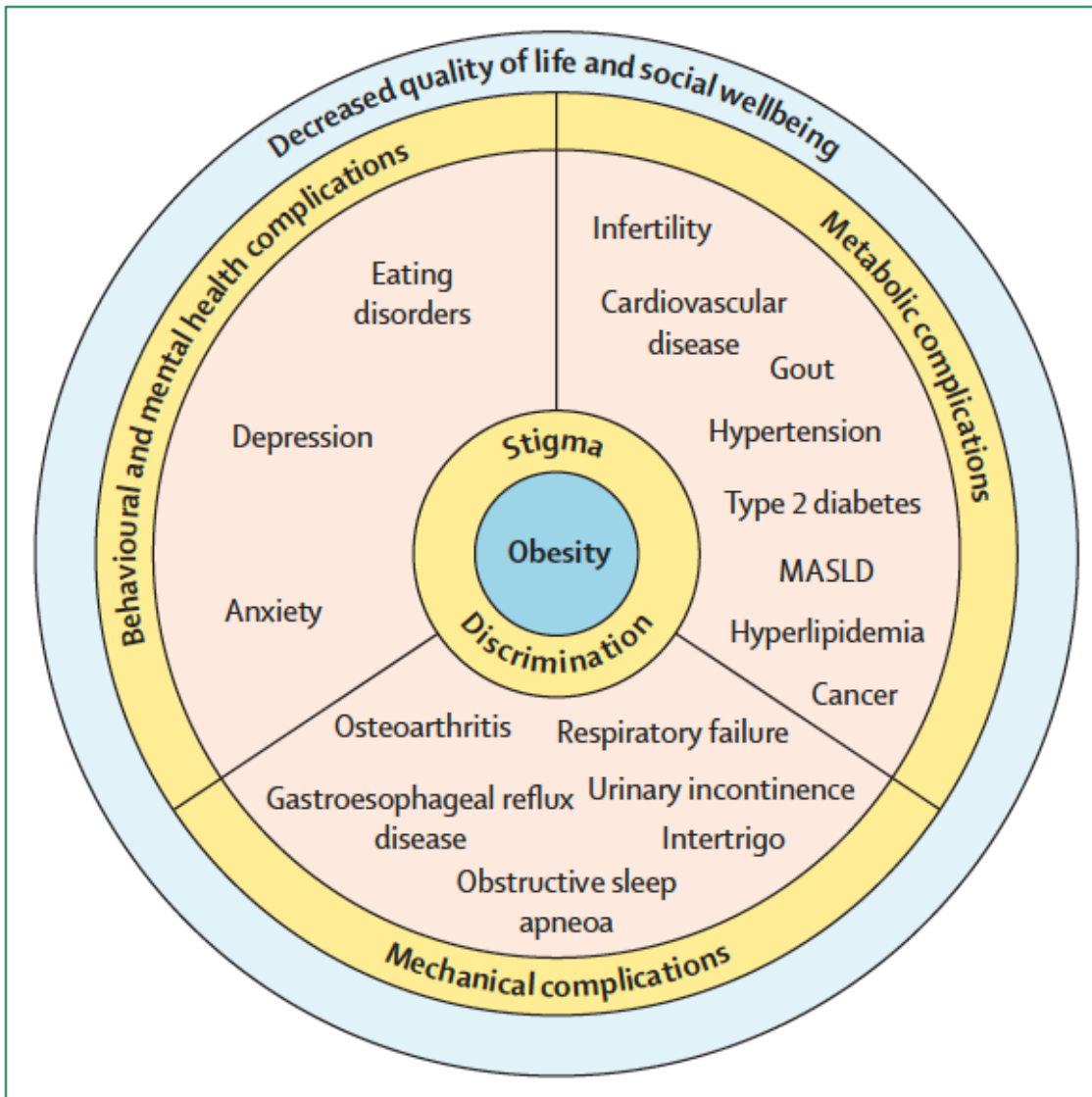
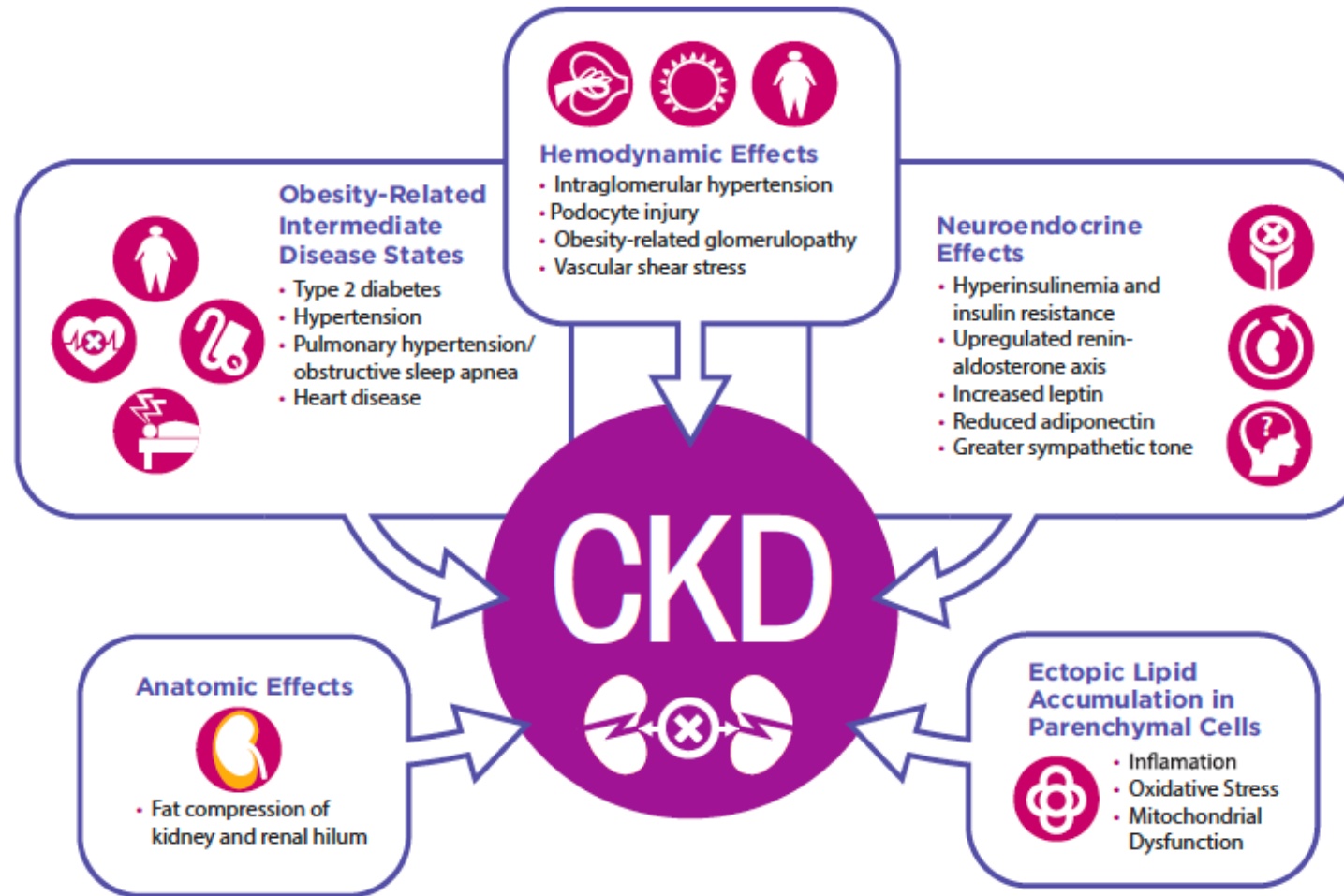


Figure 1: The wide-ranging complications of obesity

POSTULATED MECHANISMS OF OBESITY LEADING TO CKD



In histopathological examination often found:

- glomerular hyperfiltration
- glomerular hypertrophy
- increased glomerular capillary radius
- decreased podocyte density

Figure 1. Mechanisms through which obesity leads to kidney damage. Abbreviation: CKD, chronic kidney disease.

Adiposity and risk of decline in glomerular filtration rate: meta-analysis of individual participant data in a global consortium

Alex R Chang,¹ Morgan E Grams,² Shoshana H Ballew,² Henk Bilo,³ Adolfo Correa,⁴ Marie Evans,⁵ Orlando M Gutierrez,^{6,7} Farhad Hosseinpour,⁸ Kunitoshi Iseki,^{9,10} Timothy Kenealy,¹¹ Barbara Klein,¹² Florian Kronenberg,¹³ Brian J Lee,¹⁴ Yuanying Li,¹⁵ Katsuyuki Miura,¹⁶ Sankar D Navaneethan,¹⁷ Paul J Roderick,¹⁸ Jose M Valdivielso,¹⁹ Frank LJ Visseren,²⁰ Luxia Zhang,²¹ Ron T Gansevoort,²² Stein I Hallan,^{23,24} Andrew S Levey,²⁵ Kunihiko Matsushita,² Varda Shalev,²⁶ Mark Woodward,^{2,27,28} On behalf of the CKD Prognosis Consortium (CKD-PC)



39 general population cohorts (n=5 459 014)

GFR decline: eGFR decline $\geq 40\%$, KRT or eGFR < 10 mL/min/1.73 m²

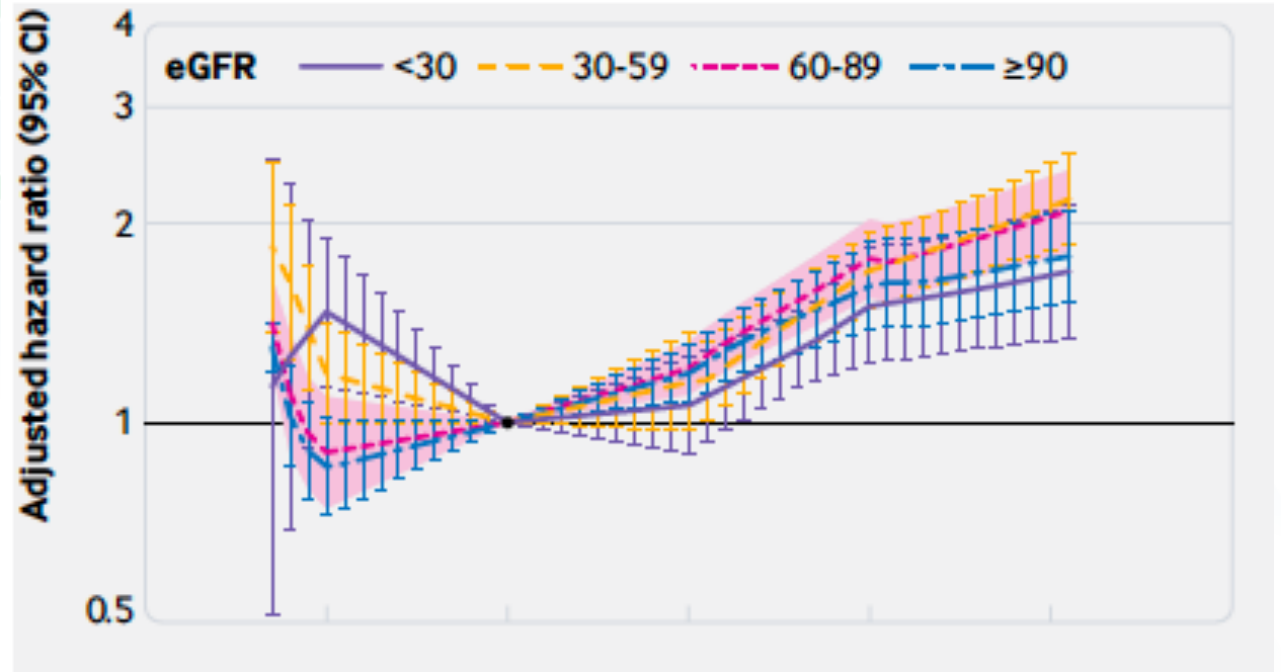
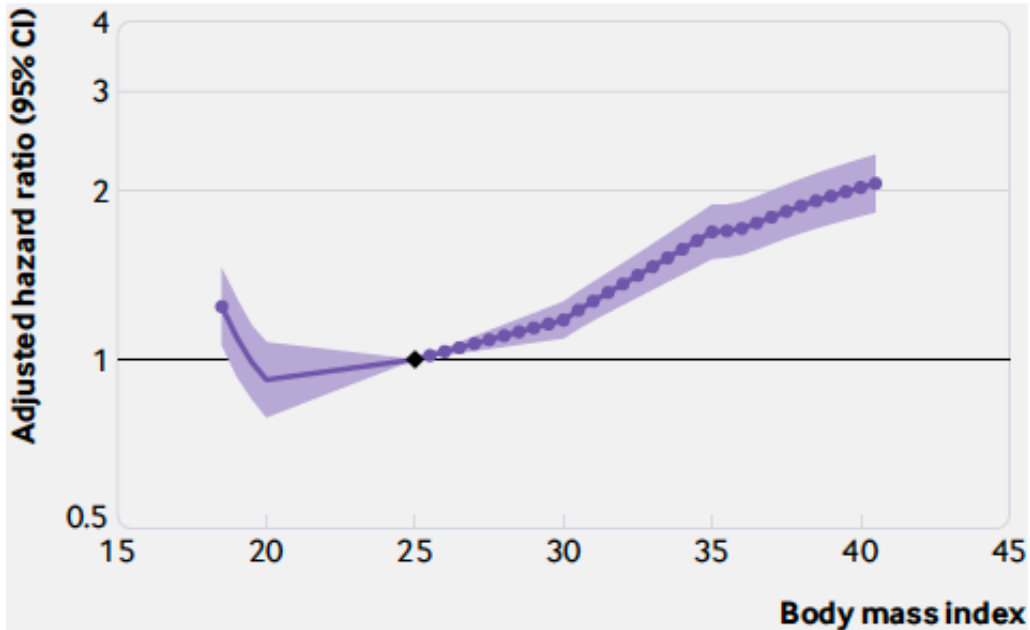


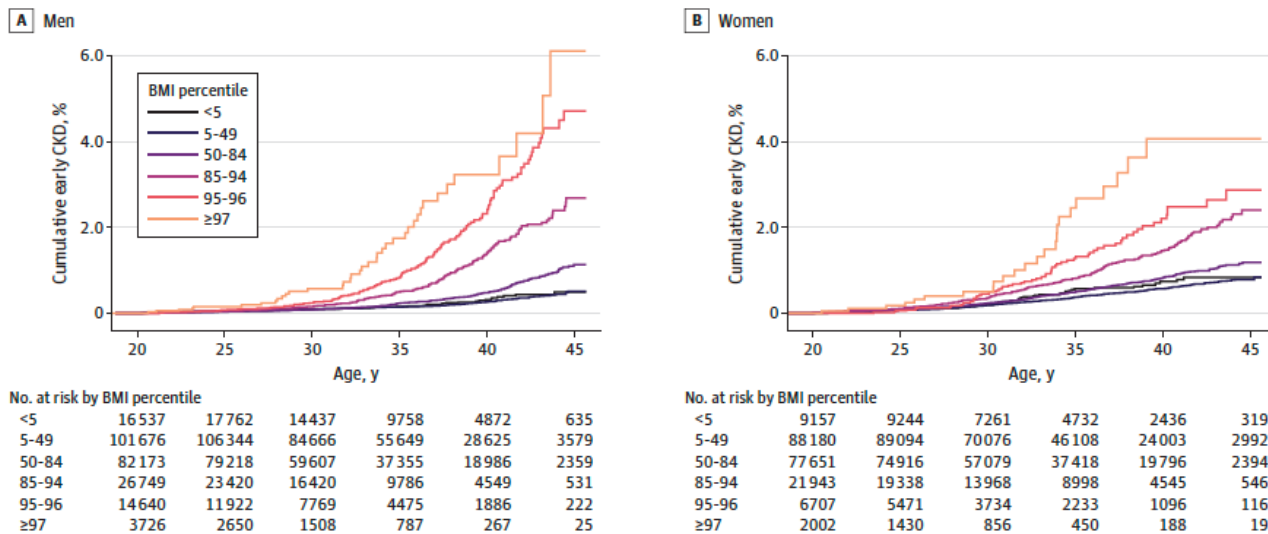
Fig 1 | Association between body mass index and risk of decline in glomerular filtration rate in general population cohorts, as shown by meta-analysed hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals related to body mass index. Association is modelled by linear splines with knots at body mass indices 20, 25, 30, and 35. Circles indicate points with significant differences in risk from the reference point at body mass index 25



Adolescent Body Mass Index and Early Chronic Kidney Disease in Young Adulthood

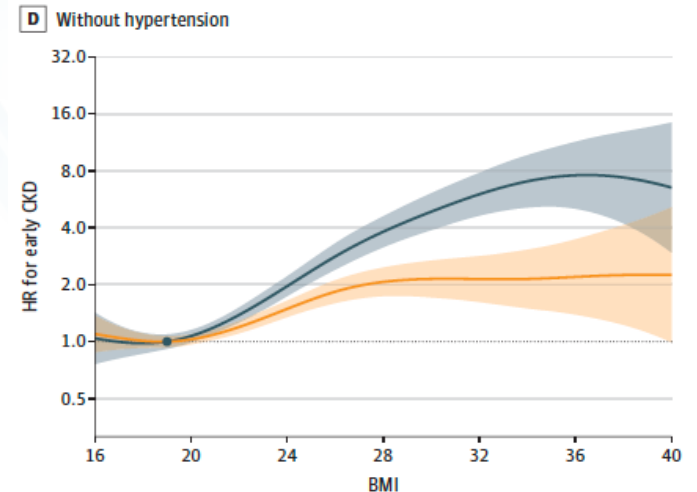
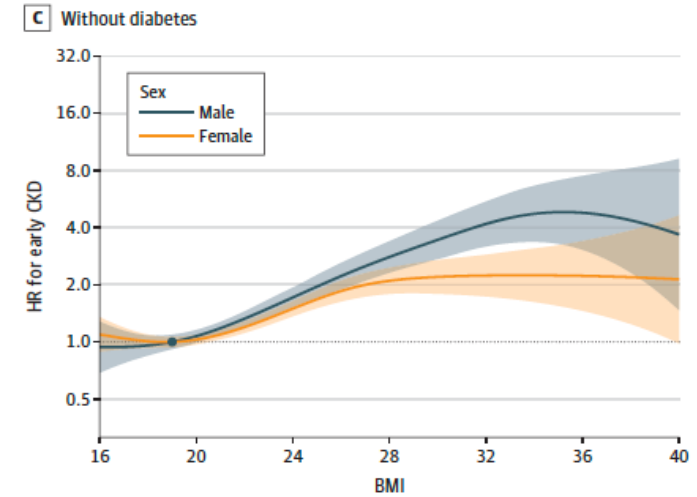
Avishai M. Tsur, MD, MHA; Inbal Akavian, MD; Regev Landau, MD; Estela Derazne, MSc; Dorit Tzur, MBA; Asaf Vivante, MD, PhD; Ehud Grossman, MD; Ran S. Rotem, PhD; Boris Fishman, MD, MPH; Orit Pinhas-Hamiel, MD; Arnon Afek, MD, MHA; Josef Coresh, MD, PhD; Gabriel Chodick, PhD; Gilad Twig, MD, PhD

Figure 2. Incidence of Early Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) by Adolescent Body Mass Index (BMI) Status



Early signs of albuminuria more likely to occur in adolescents with obesity, often appearing before the age of 30 years, and regardless of the presence of DM or HT

600.000 adolescents aged 16-20 years attending health examinations in Israel.
Outcome: CKD stages 1-2 (early CKD)



REGARDLESS OF METABOLIC HEALTH OR GENETIC CONFOUNDING

Annals of Internal Medicine

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Metabolically Healthy Obesity and Development of Chronic Kidney Disease

A Cohort Study

Yoosoo Chang, MD, PhD; Seungho Ryu, MD, PhD; Yuni Choi, BS; Yiyi Zhang, PhD; Juhee Cho, PhD; Min-Jung Kwon, MD, PhD; Young Youl Hyun, MD, PhD; Kyu-Beck Lee, MD, PhD; Hyang Kim, MD, PhD; Hyun-Suk Jung, MD; Kyung Eun Yun, MD, PhD; Jiin Ahn, MSPH; Sanjay Rampal, MD, PhD; Di Zhao, PhD; Byung-Seong Suh, MD, PhD; Eun Cheol Chung, MD, PhD; Hocheol Shin, MD, PhD; Roberto Pastor-Barriuso, PhD; and Eliseo Guallar, MD, DrPH

Metabolic health defined as:

- No prediabetes, diabetes, or using blood glucose–lowering agents
- No prehypertension, hypertension, or using of blood pressure–lowering agents
- No hypertriglyceridemia or using lipid-lowering agents
- No insulin resistance
- High HDL cholesterol levels

Ann Intern Med. 2016 Nov 15;165(10):744-745.

www.kidney-international.org

clinical investigation

Higher body mass index is associated with incident diabetes and chronic kidney disease independent of genetic confounding

Check for updates

Hong Xu^{1,2}, Ralf Kuja-Halkola¹, Xu Chen¹, Patrik K.E. Magnusson¹, Per Svensson^{3,4,5} and Juan-Jesus Carrero^{1,5}

29,136 Swedish twins with no history of CKD or diabetes

Heavier twins had higher incidence rates of both CKD and diabetes than their leaner siblings, particularly when BMI differed by >2 kg/m²

Kidney Int. 2019 May;95(5):1225-1233.

- **Q:** Isn't there sufficient evidence to propose routine screening for CKD in people with obesity?

FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE WITH CKD STAGES 3-5ND LIVE WITH OBESITY

- 72% with elevated waist circumference
- 50% with obesity (BMI ≥ 30)
- 26% with severe obesity (BMI ≥ 35)

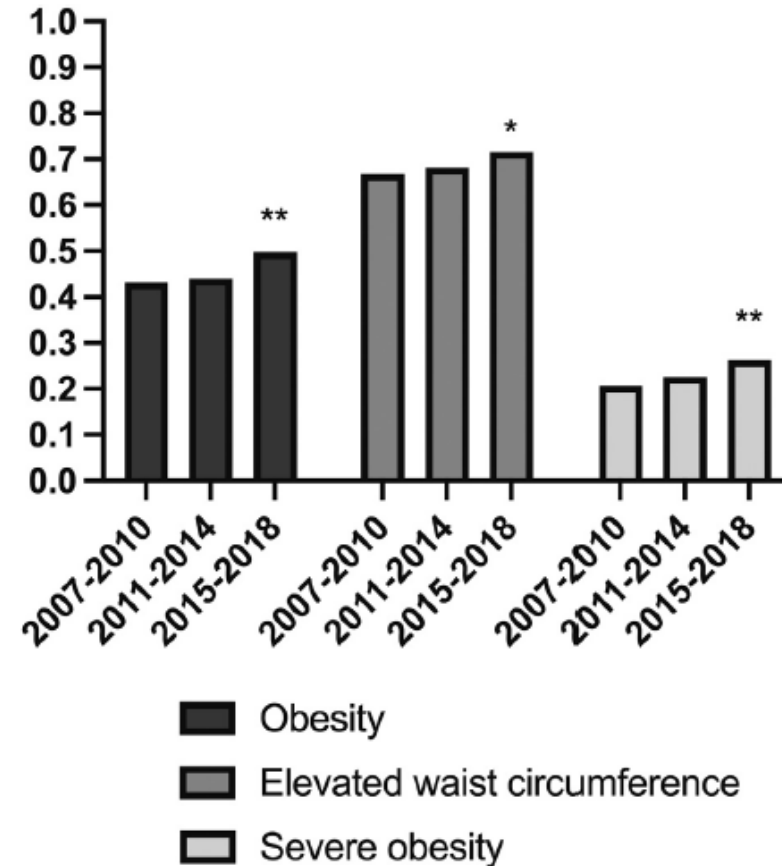


Figure 1. Prevalence of obesity, abdominal obesity, and severe obesity in chronic kidney disease. Prevalence of obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²), elevated waist circumference (>102 cm for men, >88 cm for women), and severe obesity (BMI ≥ 35 kg/m²) in patients with chronic kidney disease. Data from NHANES 2007-2018. Abbreviation: BMI, body mass index. * $P = 0.02$ for linear trend. ** $P < 0.01$ for linear trend.

PROGRESSION TO ESKD IS FASTER IN PEOPLE WITH CKD AND OBESITY

CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY www.jasn.org

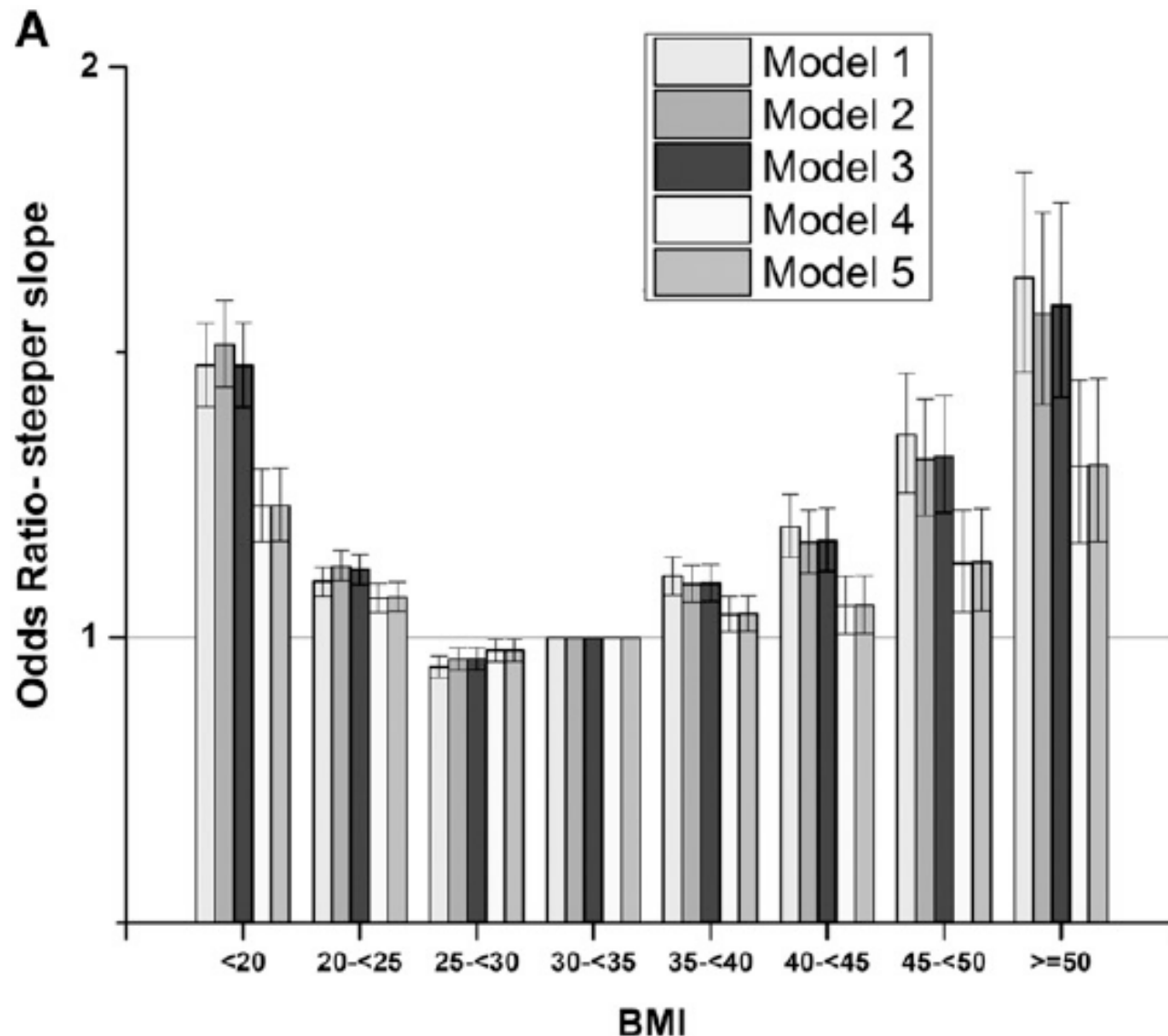
Association of Body Mass Index with Outcomes in Patients with CKD

Jun Ling Lu,* Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh,[†] Jennie Z. Ma,[‡] L. Darryl Quarles,* and Csaba P. Kovesdy*[§]

*Almost 0.5 Million US veterans with CKD
Outcome: ESKD*

Higher BMI categories linked to a more rapid progression to ESKD

Also lower BMI categories



OBESITY PREVAILS IN DIALYSIS POPULATIONS

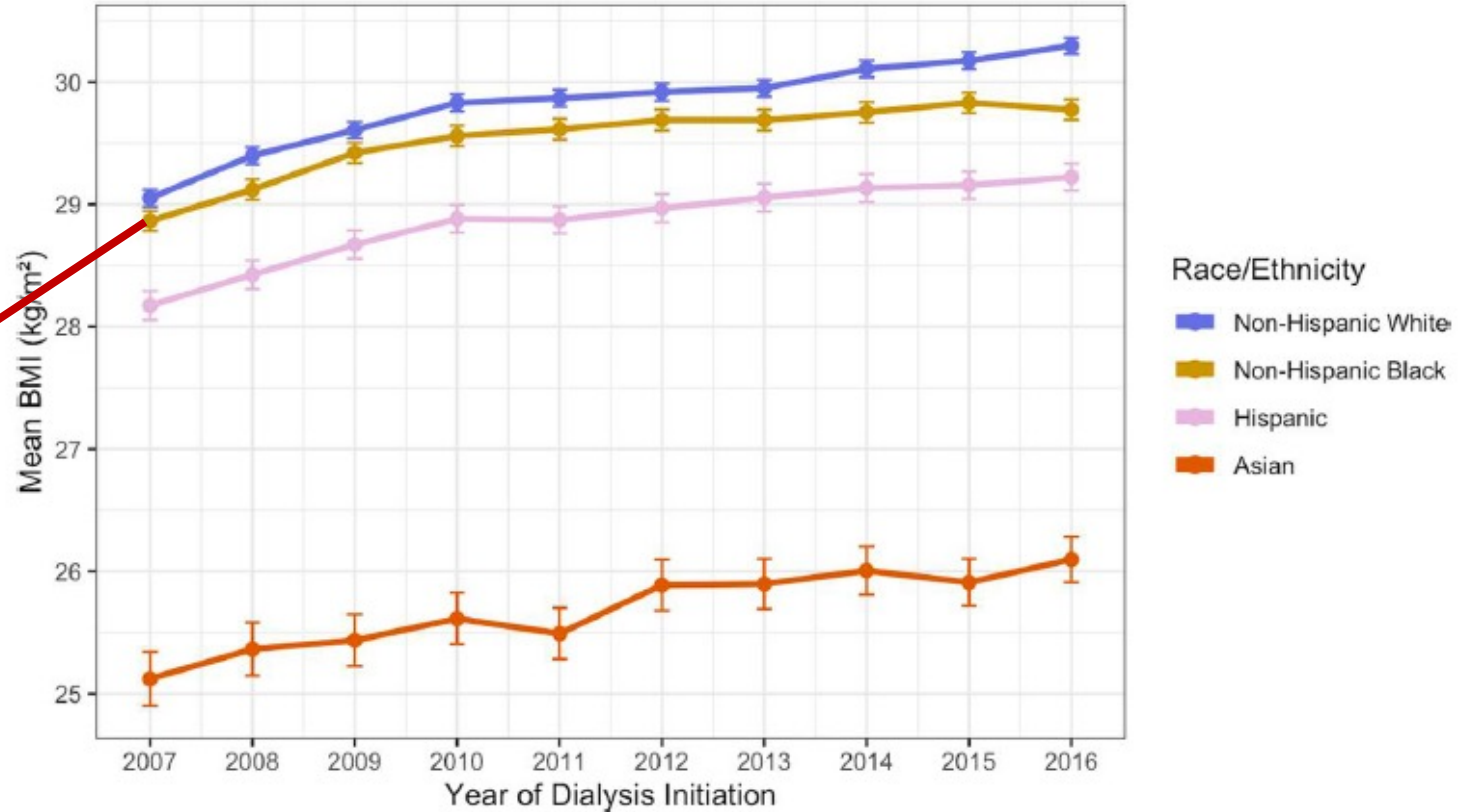
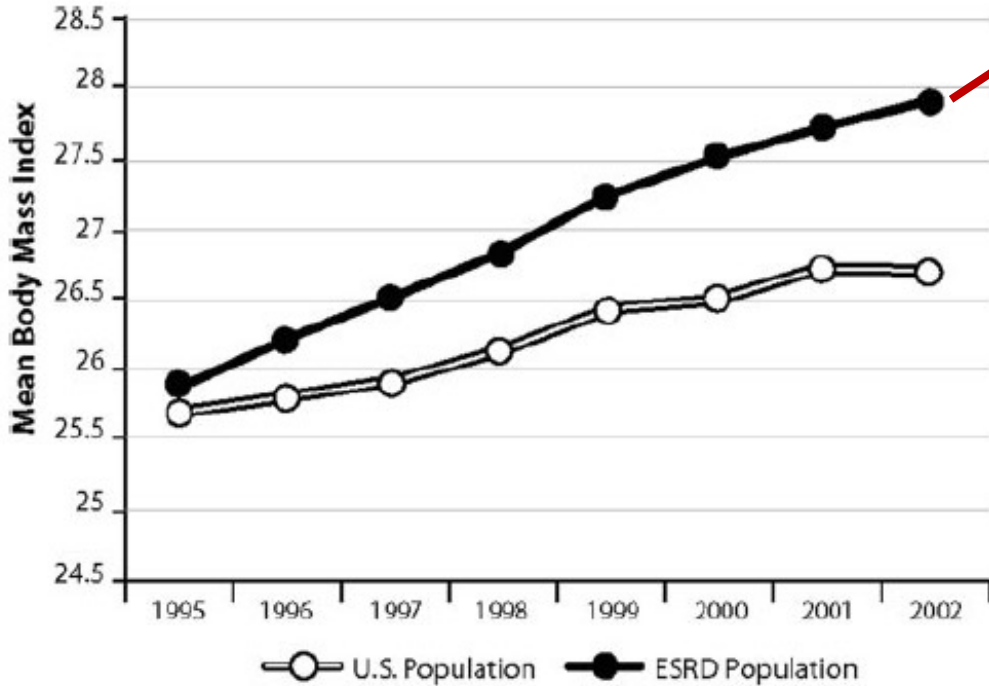


FIGURE 1. BMI trends of adult incident dialysis patients in the United States by race/ethnicity group (2007–2016). Figure depicts age- and sex-adjusted mean BMI with 95% confidence intervals by race/ethnicity. The 4 most prevalent racial/ethnic subgroups are shown in blue (non-Hispanic White), yellow (non-Hispanic Black), pink (Hispanic), and orange (Asian). BMI, body mass index.

Figure 1. Temporal trends in mean body mass index (kg/m²) among the incident adult ESRD patient population by year of first permanent dialysis initiation and in the total adult US population (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) for the corresponding year. Data are age adjusted for the 2000 US census.

Transplantation. 2022 Nov 1;106(11):e488-e498.

PEOPLE WITH CKD AND OBESITY FACE MANY CHALLENGES



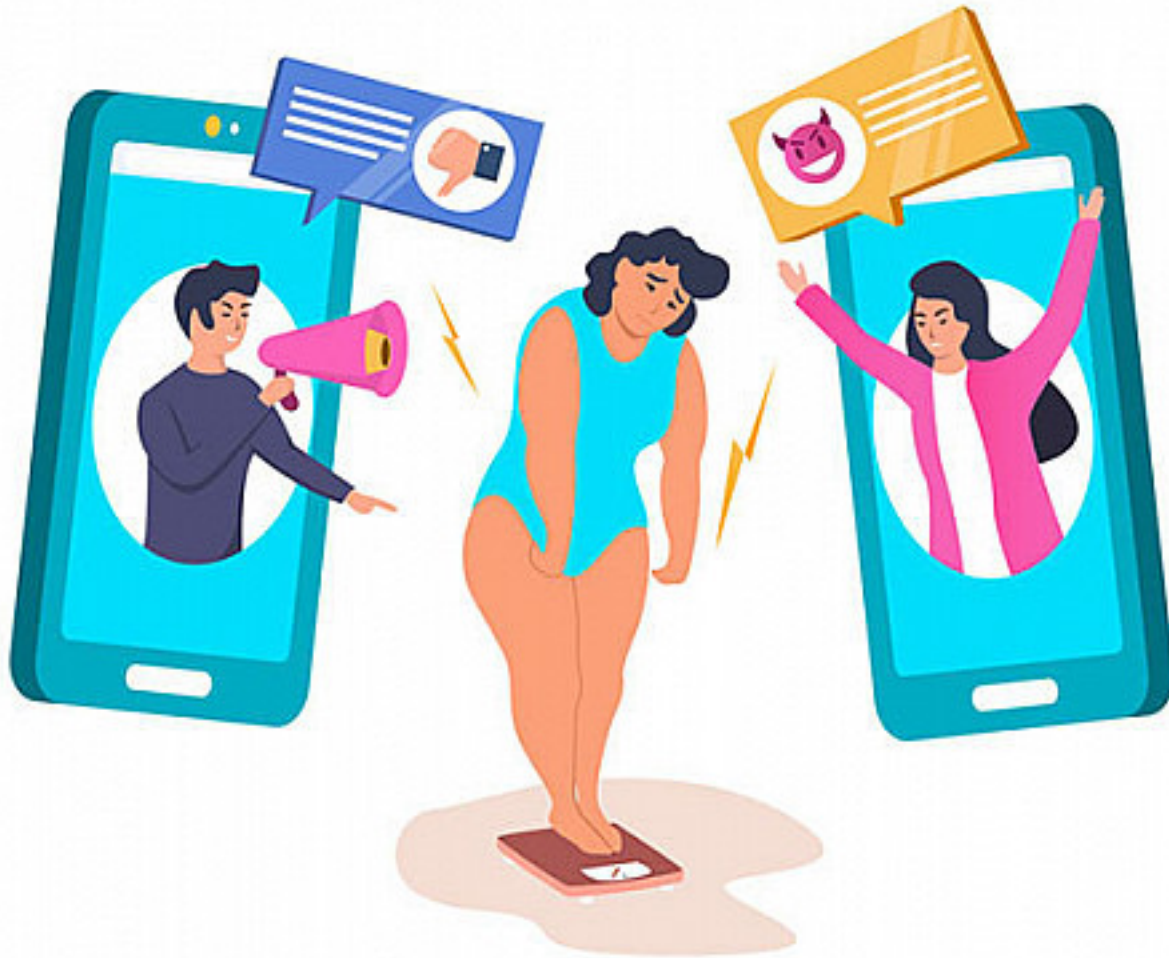
EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES: WEIGHT STIGMA

Social rejection and devaluation based on a person's body weight.

Associated with low self-esteem, depression, mental health problems, suicide attempts

Sometimes coping with this stigma by alcohol and substance use, overeating to deal with negative emotions, and avoiding health care settings or social encounters

Weight stigma also present in healthcare providers: assuming overeating behaviour, low compliance, laziness or unwillingness to engage in lifestyle advice. This bias results in reduced quality of care



OBESITY HINDERS KIDNEY FUNCTION ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

Clearance marker accuracy impaired in obesity

1. Creatinine influenced by muscle mass (higher in obesity)
2. Cys C affected by adiposity

- Q: How to best estimate kidney function in obesity?
- Q: How to best estimate kidney function after large weight losses (e.g. bariatric surgery, pharmacological treatments)?
 - Do incorrect estimates alter risk/benefit of treatments?

UACR and UPCR often underestimate proteinuria in obesity (the denominator creatinuria increases)

- Underdiagnosis, delayed treatments
- Better use 24-h collections rather than spot determinations?

OBESITY HINDERS THE MANAGEMENT OF CKD

Difficulties in **placement of a permanent access**

J Am Coll Surg. 2015 Dec;221(6):1067-72.

Physical challenges that may affect the **diagnostic performance of medical devices:**
electrocardiograms, echocardiography, magnetic resonance and tomography

J Am Coll Cardiol. 2023 Feb 7;81(5):490-504.

Changes in **pharmacodynamics/pharmacokinetics**

- Increased volume of distribution (not only lipophilic drugs)
- Increased renal clearance by higher cardiac output
- Increased hepatic metabolism
 - Considerations for antiplatelet choice because of high on-treatment platelet reactivity
 - Considerations for anticoagulant dose to balance risks of thromboembolism vs bleeding.

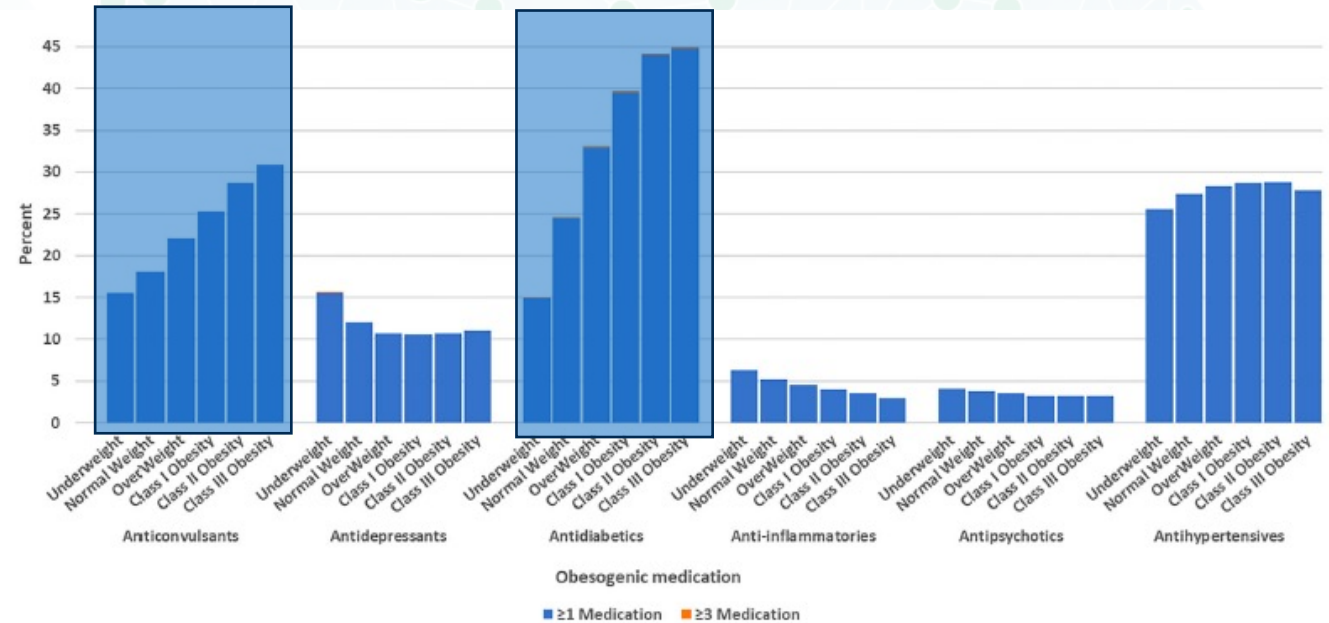
Increased prevalence of comorbid conditions (multimorbidity) that require many medications for its management (polypharmacy)

OBESOGENIC MEDICATIONS

COMMON DRUGS PROMOTE WEIGHT GAIN

	Antidepressants (3-4 lbs)	Amitriptyline Citalopram	Nortriptyline Sertraline	Paroxetine
	Anticonvulsants (~2-5 lbs)	Pregabalin Gabapentin	Carbamazepine Valproic Acid	
	Antidiabetics (5-13 lbs)	Glipizide Insulins	Glyburide Pioglitazone	
	Antipsychotics (2-34 lbs)	Olanzapine Quetiapine	Clozapine Perphenazine	
	Antihypertensives (2-8 lbs)	Atenolol Metoprolol	Propranolol	
	Opioids (Sparse data)	Hydrocodone Oxycodone		
	Antihistamines & Steroids (Up to 11 lbs for steroids)	Diphenhydramine Prednisone		

ESKD patients with obesity more likely to consume obesogenic medications



Access to listing ^a	Obesogenic medication	
	No	Yes
Overall	Reference	0.94 (0.92–0.96)
Underweight^c	Reference	0.94 (0.82–1.07)
Normal weight^c	Reference	0.93 (0.90–0.97)
Overweight^c	Reference	0.95 (0.92–0.98)
Class I obesity^c	Reference	0.90 (0.87–0.93)
Class II obesity^c	Reference	0.92 (0.87–0.97)
Class III obesity^c	Reference	0.80 (0.74–0.86)
		<i>p</i> < 0.001^d

Reducing the likelihood of being on KT listing

Clin Transplant. 2024 Aug;38(8):e15414.

OBESITY IMPEDES ACCESS TO KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

Irrespective of BMI, patient survival is improved if transplanted (vs staying on dialysis).

Nephrol Dial Transplant (2015) 30: 1403-1411
doi:10.1093/ndt/gfv214
Advance Access publication 4 June 2015

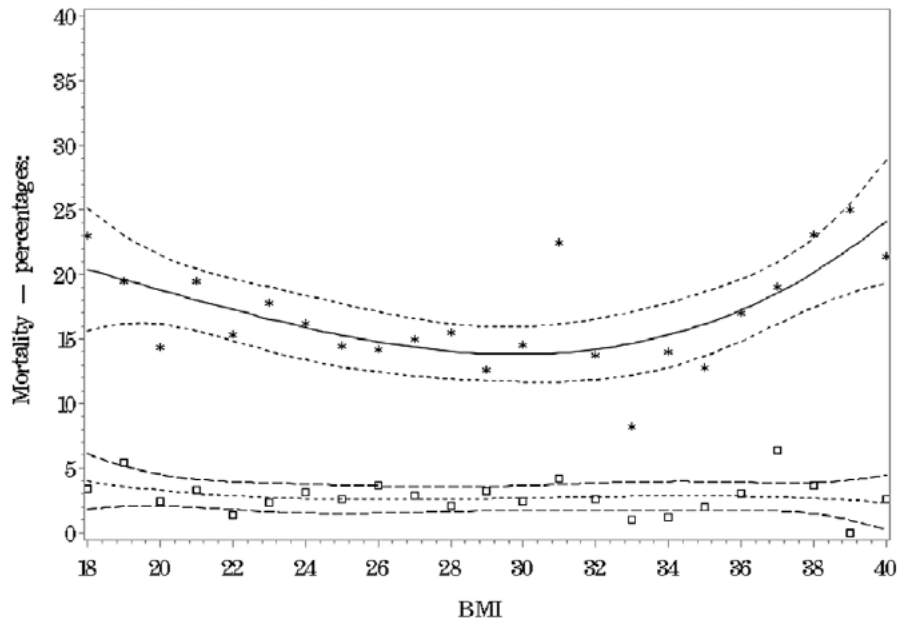


Original Article

Recipient obesity and outcomes after kidney transplantation: a systematic review and meta-analysis

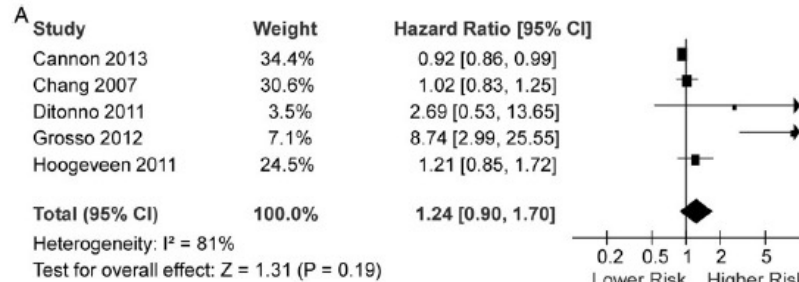
Christopher J. Hill¹, Aisling E. Courtney¹, Christopher R. Cardwell², Alexander P. Maxwell¹, Giuseppe Lucarelli³, Massimiliano Veroux⁴, Frederico Furriel⁵, Robert M. Cannon⁶, Ellen K. Hoogeveen⁷, Mona Doshi⁸ and Jennifer A. McCaughan¹

(A) Mortality comparison of listed vs. transplanted patients, by BMI



17681 UK patients in the waiting list 2004-2010

Am J Transplant. 2015 Sep;15(9):2378-86.

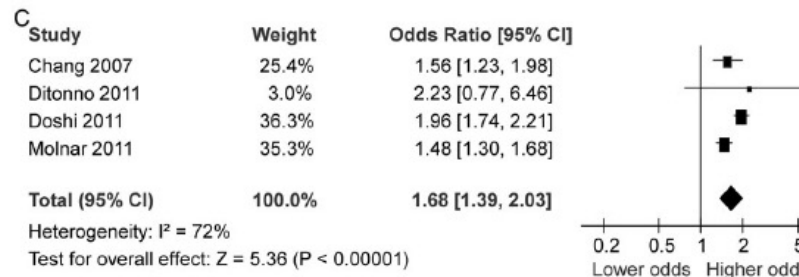
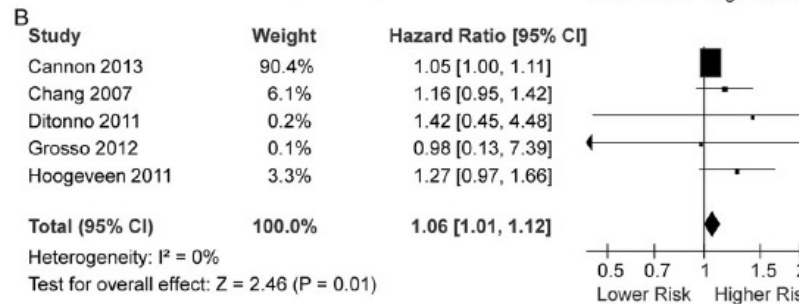


Higher likelihood of delayed graft failure,

But only a small increased risk of graft loss

Similar survival

Compared to recipients with normal BMI.



Q: Still, many hospitals globally require BMI < 30 kg/m² to be enrolled in the Tx waiting list (larger thresholds in some countries).

- Time to reconsider?

Difficulties during surgery. Robotic surgery? Pre-Tx bariatric surgery?

Obesity may pose challenges **to any Tx management (not only kidney Tx)**:

- Obesity-related complications (type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease)
- Hyperfiltration
- Inflammation induced by excess adipose tissue
- Increased risk of perioperative complications.
- Changes in bioavailability of immunosuppressive agents = risks of immunologic injury to the allograft.

BROAD ARRAY OF HEALTH CHALLENGES WITH OBESITY



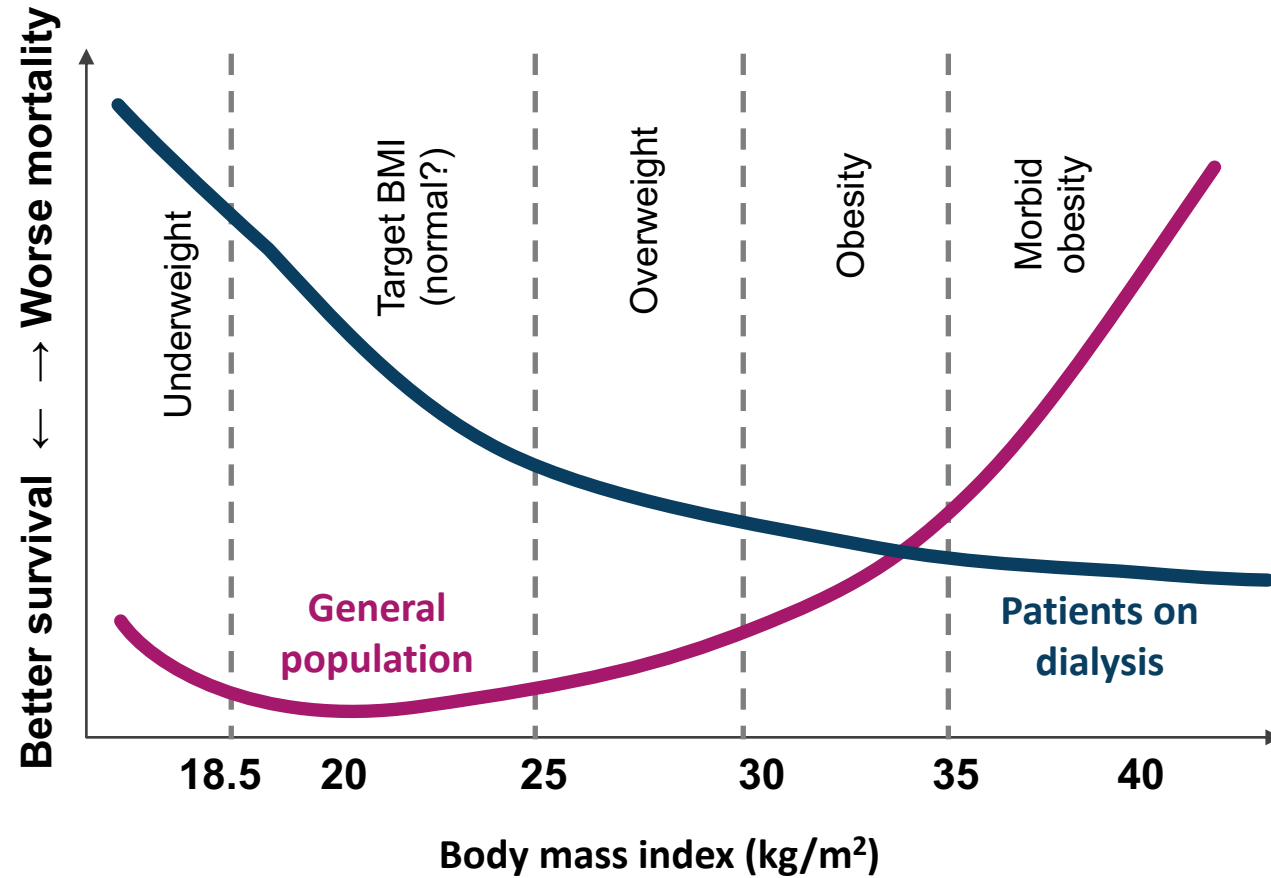
Complications of Obesity	Stages of CKD							
	No CKD	1	2	3	4	5	5D	5T
Increased Risk of Developing CKD	●							●
Increased Risk of CKD Progression		●	●	●	●	●		●
Decreased Access to Kidney Transplantation						●	●	●
Increased Risk of Cardiovascular Disease	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increased Hospitalizations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increased Healthcare Costs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Decreased Quality of Life	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Decreased Life Expectancy	●	●	●	●	●	●	*	●

Am J Kidney Dis. 2022 Dec;80(6):783-793.



THE OBESITY PARADOX OF PATIENTS ON DIALYSIS

(reverse epidemiology– effect modification – risk factor paradox)



BMI HAS MANY LIMITATIONS AS A CLINICAL DECISION TOOL

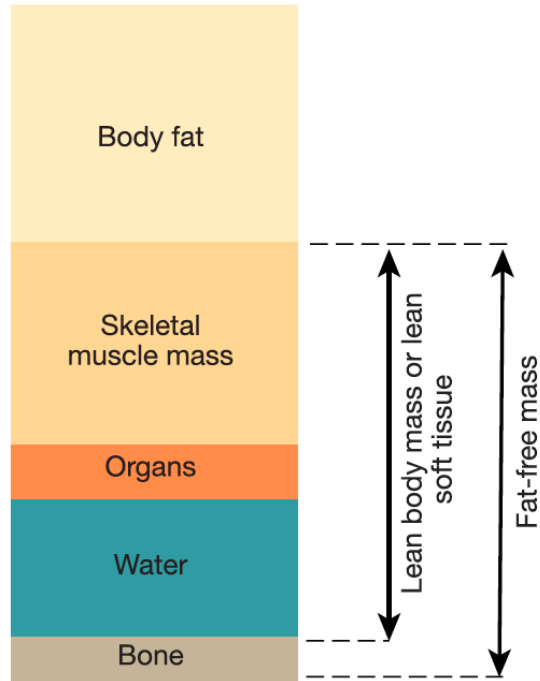


Figure 1 | Body composition compartments; differences in the estimation of fat-free mass and lean soft-tissue/lean body mass. Residual mass considers connective tissue and blood.

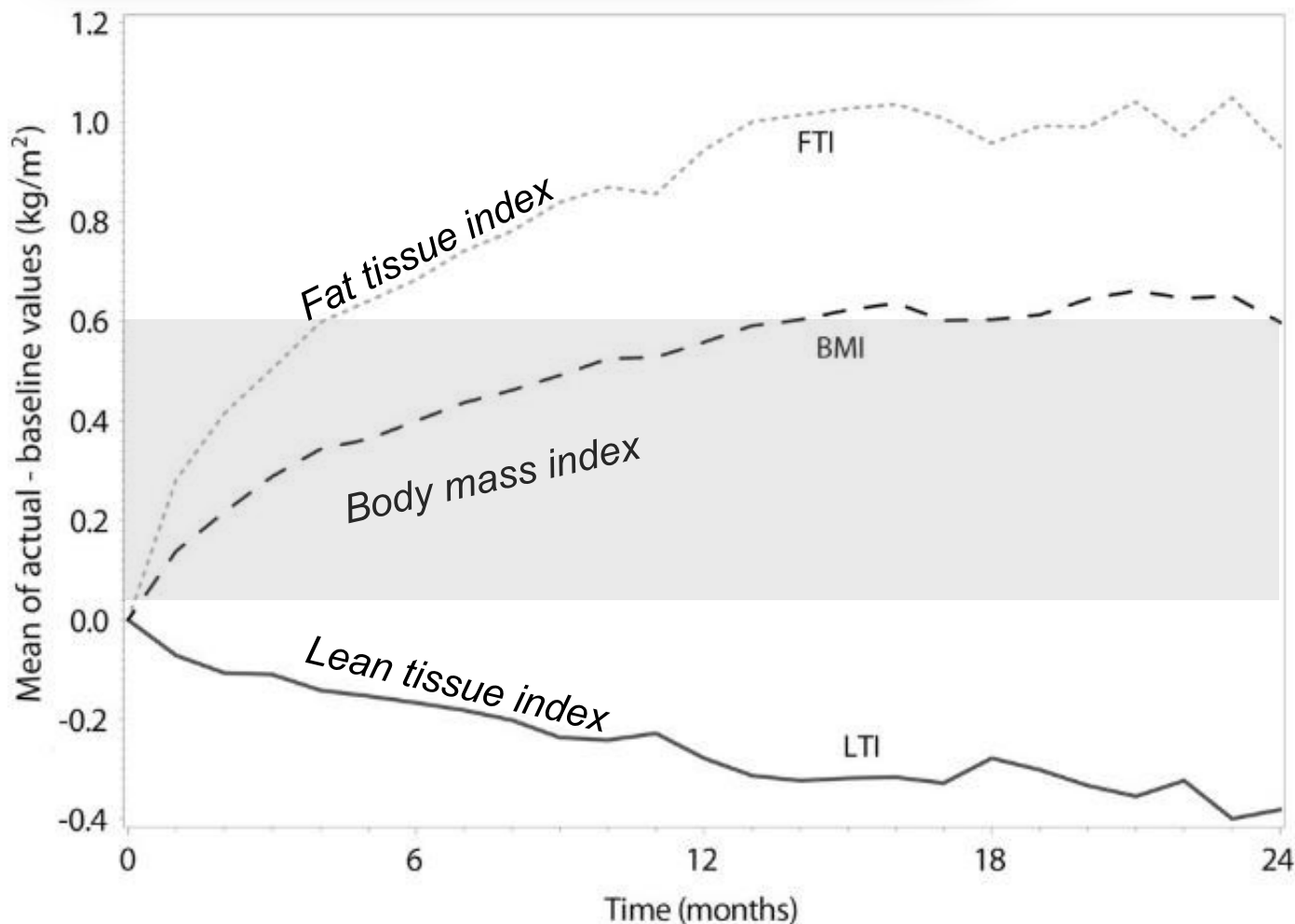
1. BMI does not differentiate **fat from muscle**
2. BMI does not capture the **aging-changes** in body composition.
3. BMI does not differentiate **sex-differences in % fat**.
4. BMI does not differentiate **fat distribution** (central vs peripheral)
5. **Fluid overload** falsely increases BMI



Kidney Int. 2016 Jul;90(1):53-66.

Semin Dial. 2015 Jan-Feb;28(1):48-58.

Longitudinal Changes in Body Composition in Patients After Initiation of Hemodialysis Therapy: Results From an International Cohort



BMI can mask opposing changes in body composition

8227 incident HD patients undergoing repeated bioimpedance tests

Body composition provides much more clinically useful information than body size (BMI)

J Ren Nutr. 2016 Mar;26(2):72-80.

Original Articles

Subclinical versus overt obesity in dialysis patients: more than meets the eye

Approx. 500 dialysis patients from Stockholm

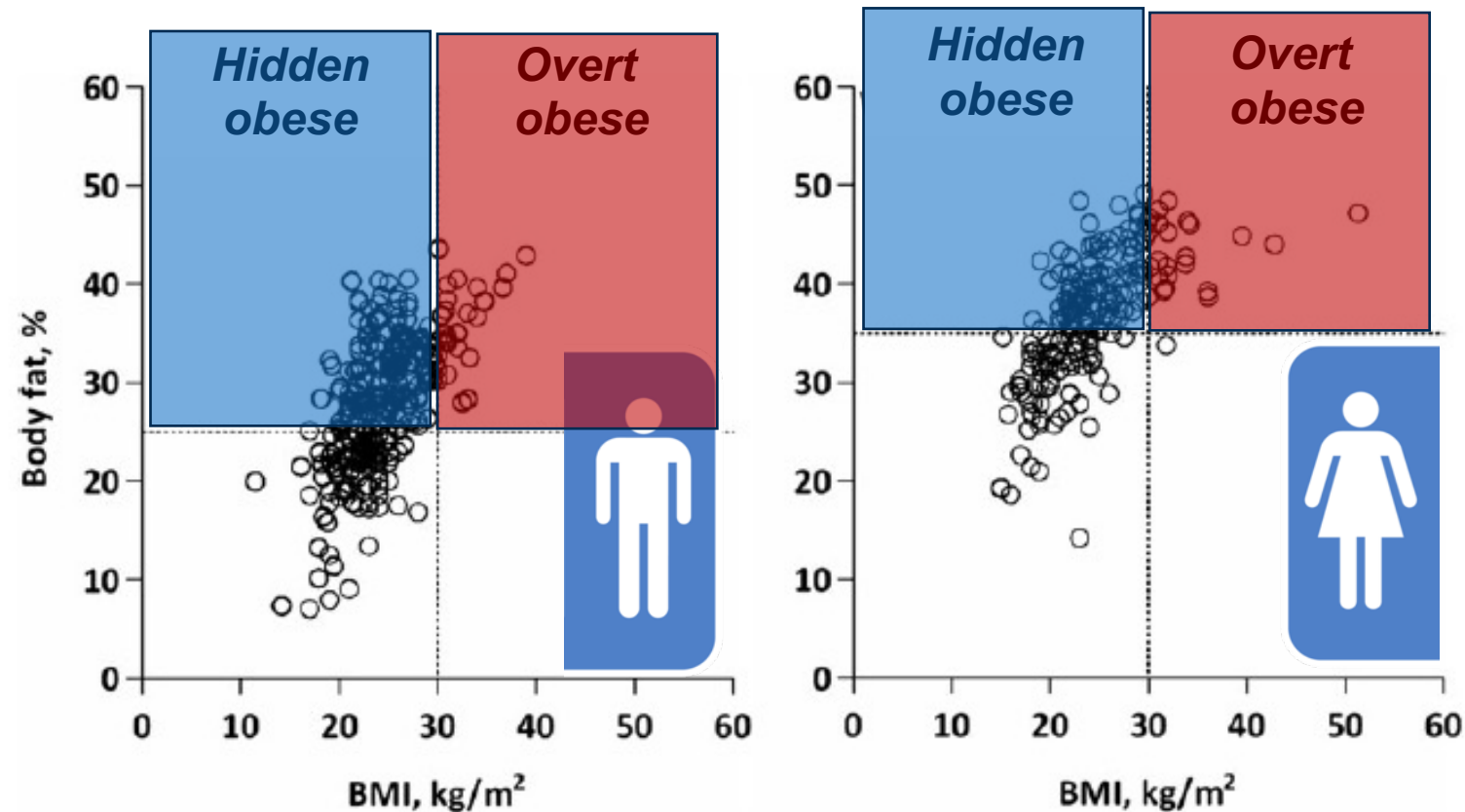
WHO obesity: as body fat % exceeding 25% in men and 35% in women.

Hidden obese individuals were more often malnourished and had both lower muscle mass and strength
OBESSE SARCOPENIA

Overtly obese individuals had higher muscle mass and strength, and better nutritional status.

BMI missclassified

- 59% of obese men
- 51% of obese women



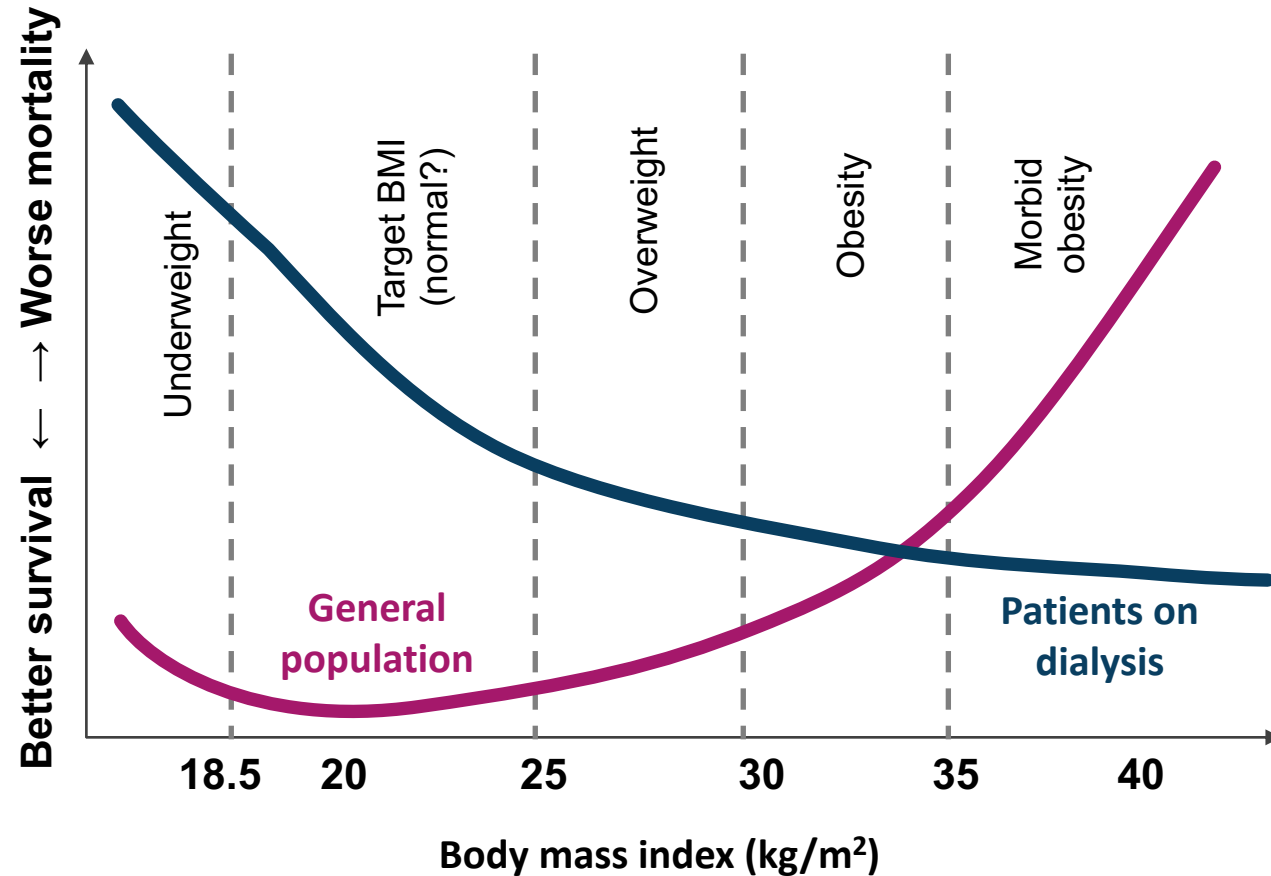
What does a high-BMI represent in wasting-diseases like CKD?

- An overall marker of health
- An individual with more fat
- With more muscle, better bone density
- Better nutritional status



**Someone with more energy stores
to stand the process of wasting**

THE OBESITY PARADOX EXPLAINED WITH COMPETING RISKS



BMI in wasting diseases represents energy abundance

Patients possibly die of the short-term consequences of protein-energy wasting, not living long enough to die of the long-term consequences of obesity.

MEASURES OF CENTRAL FATNESS ASSOCIATE MORE CONSISTENTLY THAN BMI WITH METABOLIC RISKS

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



Anthropomorphic Measurements That Include Central Fat Distribution Are More Closely Related with Key Risk Factors than BMI in CKD Stage 3

Philip D. Evans¹, Natasha J. McIntyre¹, Richard J. Fluck¹, Christopher W. McIntyre^{1,2}, Maarten W. Taal^{1*}

¹ Department of Renal Medicine, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby, United Kingdom, ² Department of Vascular Medicine, The University of Nottingham, Derby Campus, Derby, United Kingdom

Journal of the American College of Cardiology
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ISSN 0735-1097/09/\$36.00
doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2008.12.040

Obesity and CV Mortality in ESRD

Abdominal Obesity and All-Cause and Cardiovascular Mortality in End-Stage Renal Disease

Maurizio Postorino, MD, Carmen Marino, TECH, Giovanni Tripepi, DRSTAT, Carmine Zoccali, PROF, on behalf of the CREDIT (Calabria Registry of Dialysis and Transplantation) Working Group
Reggio Calabria, Italy

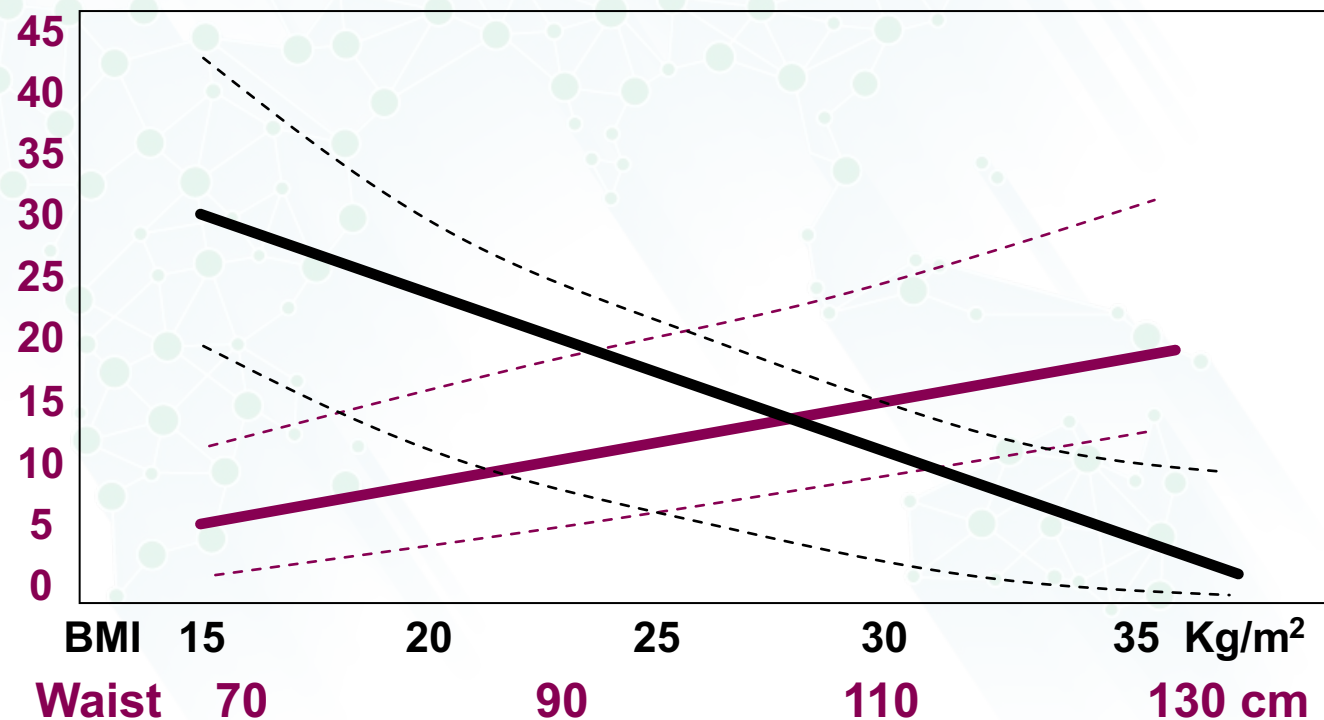
J Am Coll Cardiol. 2009 Apr 14;53(15):1265-72.

BMI and abdominal fat estimations (WC) represent different risks:

- BMI is a marker of energy excess/health (muscle and fat).
- Waist circumference is a marker of obesity-associated risk

1760 adults with CKD stage 3: **Stronger associations with blood pressure, hyperuricemia, arterial stiffness, albuminuria, inflammation**

Hazard rate
(deaths/100 PY)



MOVING AWAY FROM BODY SIZE TO BODY COMPOSITION IN RENAL NUTRITION ASSESSMENT

BMI

Insufficient to diagnose PEW, unless very low

(central) Fat stores:

- Waist circumference
- Conicity Index
- Skinfold thickness
- Bioimpedance

Screen for unintentional body weight loss

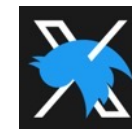
Muscle stores:

- Bioimpedance
- Handgrip strength
- Creatinine in dialysis

CKD stages	Frequency
CKD stages 1-3	At least annually
CKD stages 4-5 and Tx	Every 3 months
Dialysis	Monthly

KDOQI-AND *Nutrition Guidelines*.
Am J Kidney Dis. 2020 Sep;76(3 Suppl 1):S1-S107.

- Obesity leads to CKD and both conditions often coexist.
- Nephrology / transplantology can use more precise metrics of obesity for clinical decision making



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