



# Psychological and sociodemographic characteristics of bariatric surgery candidates in the Bariatric Surgery Center of Thessaloniki



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**I have no potential conflict of interest to report**

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## Background

Presurgical psychological evaluation has become an essential part of the assessment for those individuals seeking bariatric surgery. The psychiatric comorbidity and the sociodemographic characteristics of this population have attracted the interest of many researchers because of their relevance to the results of the optimal clinical response.

## Objectives

The objective of this study is to present the psychological and sociodemographic characteristics of the bariatric surgery candidates in the Bariatric Surgery Center of Thessaloniki.

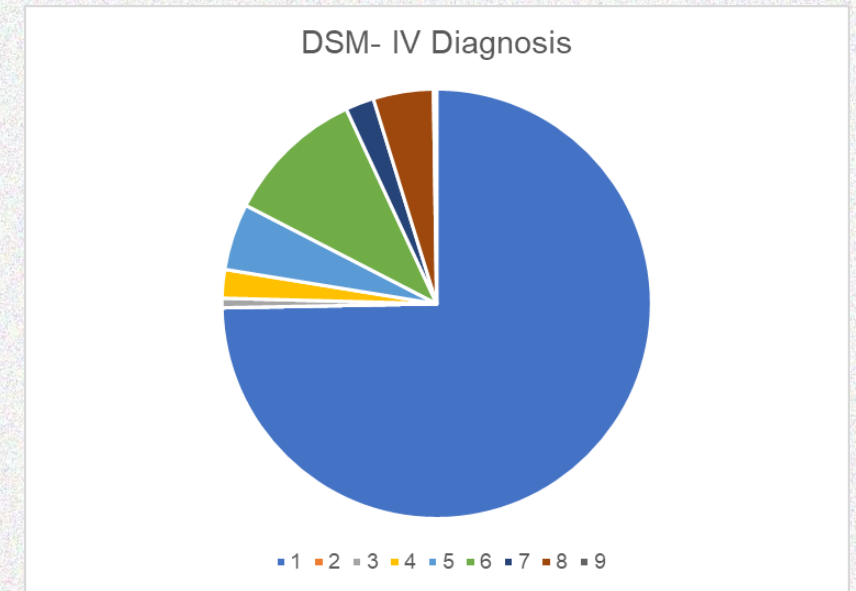
## Methods

We reviewed the archives of our candidates between June 2019 and December 2023 (4,5 years) and compared their psychological and sociodemographic characteristics with those of international studies.

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## Results

In total 538 individuals sought examination as candidates for bariatric surgery (228 men 42%, and 310 women 58%) and after initial screening from our interdisciplinary team 501 proceed to the second stage for further evaluation with an average BMI of 47,65. Of those 501, 419 apart from the necessary clinical evaluation agreed to participate in the study completing the full version of our psychometric assessment. Out of the 419 study individuals 170 were men (40,5%) and 219 were women (59,5%) with an average BMI of 47,84. Their average age was 41 years old and their average education years was 13,4. **25,2% of those 419 candidates had an Axis I diagnose (according to DSM-IV) with the majority being anxiety, depression or eating disorder** and 18,6% were taking medication for their psychiatric problems, 29,8% of those 419 candidates fulfilled the criteria of a personality disorder (Axis II).



1. Without Diagnosis
2. Alcohol Abuse
3. Psychotic Disorders
4. Bipolar Disorder
5. Depressive Disorder
6. Anxiety Disorders
7. Generalized Anxiety Disorder
8. Eating Disorders
9. Personality Disorders

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## Conclusion

Candidates of bariatric surgery of Bariatric Surgery Center of Thessaloniki seem to have high percentage of mental health issues compared to general population but our results are in accordance with international studies reporting that up to 57% of bariatric patients face mental health problems.

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