

0018

Do You Need a Psychologist? Arguments for and against the psychologist's role in bariatric surgery.

Category: Integrated Health

Cal Paterson

Bodychanges Psychology, NSW, Australia

It is now 25 years since the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) first included psychological assessment and support in guidelines for bariatric surgery. With longitudinal data now available regarding the impact of psychological intervention on surgery patient outcome, this paper will review the historical and current roles of the psychologist in this area of medicine, as well as the evidence for bariatric practitioners who may be considering if, and how, a psychologist may play a part in the care of their patients. In particular, key arguments for, and against, the presence of a psychologist in a bariatric clinic will be presented.