

## **P-1001 - PREGNANCY FOLLOWING BARIATRIC SURGERY: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS REPORTED BY PATIENTS IN A PUBLIC SERVICE IN SOUTHEAST BRAZIL**

R.Magdalenó Jr, B.G.Pereira, E.A.Chaim, E.R.Turato

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Clinical Qualitative Research, Department of Medical Psychology and Psychiatry, <sup>2</sup> Faculty of Medical Sciences, State University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

**Introduction:** The prevalence of obesity has become a health problem worldwide. Amidst this epidemic, obesity among pregnant women has risen dramatically. Bariatric surgery (BS) has become an important alternative for obese women planning pregnancy and should be considered in the pre-conception management of morbidly obese women. Psychological aspects related to this field are still unknown.

**Objective:** To understand psychological meanings of pregnancy following BS.

**Methods:** Qualitative study conducted with an intentional sample of women seen in an outpatient service.

**Results:** Pregnancy following BS has specific emotional characteristics. There is a greater concern derived from fantasies of causing harm to the baby. There is an evident conflict between desire of eating to feed the fetus and desire of staying thin by eating little. The surprise these women experience when they learn they are pregnant relates to the ambivalence between desire of getting pregnant and fear of losing what was gained after the surgery, as well as to the perception of deviation of the eating compulsion and the inability to postpone pregnancy for the recommended period. Weight loss following BS reduces the worry with obesity during pregnancy, opening affective space for maternity.

**Conclusions:** Pregnancy following BS imposes on women intense experiences related to fears about the baby's integrity, especially about its weight; risk of losing what was gained after surgery; and ambivalent emotions towards the fetus. Surgeons and obstetricians should be prepared to deal with the complex web of affects related to this specific clinical condition marked by intense emotional reactions.