



## Letter to the Editor

Mario Morino · Gitana Scozzari

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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article “Correlation between age and weight loss after bariatric surgery” [1] by Contreras and colleagues, published in *Obesity Surgery* in August 2013.

The study reports a retrospective analysis of 337 patients with a 12-month follow-up. The study supports the findings available in a few previous papers, reporting lesser weight loss in older patients [2, 3], although with small sample sizes and short follow-up evaluations [4, 5].

We were surprised, however, that the authors did not refer to most of these previous publications [2, 3, 5] and that they fail to quote our recent paper which, to the best of our knowledge, was the first to specifically examine the role of preoperative age as a potential predictor of weight loss after bariatric surgery [6]. Based on 489 patients with a median follow-up of 36 months, we demonstrated that BMI trend over time was significantly modified by baseline age; patients aged  $\geq 52$  years showed a significantly lower BMI decrease and a greater weight regain in the long-term follow-up compared with younger age groups.

We believe that a reference to previous findings [2–5] and our recent paper [6] would have strengthened the conclusion of the paper by Contreras and colleagues [1].

Furthermore, the authors stated that the previous data available only compared patients older than 60 years with

younger cases, and that “(i)t has not been studied if the results are similar if you apply a lower age limit when comparing this outcome between both groups” [1], but this is not completely correct, since in our work, we did indeed use age quartiles, thus comparing patients aged  $\geq 52$  years with younger groups.

**Conflict of Interest** The authors have no conflict of interest to report.

### References

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M. Morino (✉) · G. Scozzari  
Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Torino, Torino, Italy  
e-mail: mario.morino@unito.it