

Bariatric Newsletter

July 2008

Inside This Issue

- 1 The Foresight Obesity Project
- 2 News Story
- 3 New Obesity Drug Approved by NICE
- 4 Obesity & the Funeral Trade
- 5 Useful Contacts & Websites

*Obesity costs England
18 million sick days &
30,000 deaths (WHO
2005)*

Welcome to the First Bariatric Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to bring together news, research, product information and guidance on managing the bariatric patient / client for those in the healthcare profession.

ForeSight Obesity Project

The World Health Organization claims over a billion people worldwide are overweight and at least 300 million obese (WHO 2003)



The UK population has grown steadily larger: 23% of the UK population is now obese, a threefold increase since 1980 (Lister 2005)

Obesity is both a major cause of chronic ill health & "considered a disease in its own right" (WHO 2003)

The World Health Organization has declared obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally and the House of Commons Health Committee (2004) stated "this will be the first generation where children die before their parents as a consequence of childhood obesity"

Download a copy of the Foresight Obesity Project Report at:
www.foresight.gov.uk



"This goes to show certain staff can ridicule & insult patients as they feel fit"

Gary Barton

Articles in the Press



June 17th 2008

NHS bosses have apologized to a 20 Stone patient – after hospital staff called him a 'fat f*****'.

Disabled Gary Barton, 48, had struggled to lift himself on to a bed for a MRI scan to see if his knee was arthritic. He was given headphones playing soothing music – and a nurse thought he could not hear said: "that was a struggle with his leg".

A radiographer replied: "Yeah I know. I thought he was going to break the bed, the fat f*****"

Gary shouted that he could hear them – but said the staff then burst into fits of laughter.

The diabetic Dad of 4, who must use a stick to walk, said "This goes to show certain staff can ridicule & insult patients as they feel fit"

The Heart of England Foundation NHS Trust, which runs the Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, apologized & called the remarks "extremely regrettable"

New Obesity Drug Approved by NICE

A new weight-loss drug banned in the US over fears it can heighten the risk of suicide has been given the go-ahead in Britain.

Acomplia (also known as Rimonabant) is available to over-weight or obese patients who cannot take or have had no success with two other weight-loss drugs available on the NHS.

A series of scientific studies have raised concerns that it can induce suicidal thoughts in those already suffering from depression. Acomplia hasn't been authorized in the US because of safety fears, but is available in France and Germany.

Acomplia went on sale in Britain in 2006 but approval from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for use on the NHS was only issued on 24/06/08

Trials have shown that it could help two out of five patients lose ten percentage of their weight

NICE guidance recommends Acomplia 'as an addition to diet & exercise for adults who are obese or overweight and who have had an inadequate response to, or are intolerant of the other two main weight-loss drugs.'

The go-ahead means Doctors will have a choice of more drugs to help those wanting to lose weight and the drugs cost approximately £2 per day.



More than One million Prescriptions for Obesity Drugs are now given out to patients

Obesity and the Funeral Trade

Obesity is affecting all professions, and the work of Funeral Directors in the UK is no exception. Issues including safely transporting the deceased from their home / local mortuary to crematoriums being unable to cope with the extra width required to accommodate the larger person.

With 75% of people in the UK opting for cremation, this is a problem that must be addressed. For those who do select a burial, increasing numbers of Funeral Directors are now refusing to carry coffins into churches, opting to use trolleys instead.

In August 2007 Mark Bamber passed away from heart failure at the age of 38. Mr. Bamber weighed 50stone and his family struggled to ensure his Funeral was as dignified as possible.

A specialized mahogany casket was built, measuring 7ft 11in long, 4ft 6in wide and 30in deep.

As no hearse would have been able to accommodate the size of the casket a horse-drawn platform was utilized to transport Mr. Bamber on the journey to the Cemetery, where a mechanical hoist was used to lower the coffin into the grave.

Although Mr. Bamber's case was an exception, increasingly, Funeral Directors are being criticized for refusing to lift coffins and using trolleys to wheel coffins into the church / crematorium. Where family members request to lift the coffin themselves, disclaimer forms are issued.

The average coffin on its own can weigh approximately 10stone and is 24in wide and 6ft 5in long.

Many crematoriums can only cater for coffins that are 32in wide – and this includes the coffin handles. This is when we hear the press reporting stories of families having to travel long distances to specially adapted crematoriums that can cater for the larger coffin.



Useful Contacts and Websites

- www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr57.3.htm
Information on risk assessments and process planning for bariatric patient handling pathways
- www.independentliving.co.uk/bariatric.html
A wealth of information on bariatric equipment and guidance
- www.bartrams.net
Bariatric equipment to buy or hire, including commodes, walking frames, beds etc
- www.yourablesshop.co.uk
A wide variety of bariatric equipment, including a selection of Scales and weighing equipment
- www.johnwilde.co.uk
Bariatric mortuary gowns
- www.allanasmyth.co.uk
Bariatric gowns
- www.foxhaven.org.uk
Bariatric body bags
- www.mopec.com
Bariatric body bags

© Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com



'CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S AN OBESITY-
TIME BOMB...'



Produced by:

Olivia A.E. Brown – Lecturer in Patient Handling
The University of Northampton – School of Health
olivia.brown@northampton.ac.uk