

Transplant: The Challenges of Obesity

It is common knowledge that the incidence and prevalence of obesity in the general population is increasing at alarming rates, as evidenced by multiple initiatives from the government to address this problem. This problem is mirrored in our dialysis and kidney transplant recipient population.

I would like to address some of the issues surrounding transplanting the obese recipient. This will include a brief discussion of the surgery itself, but focus mainly on some of the myths that I believe are potentially discriminating against obese and morbidly obese patients and thus preventing them from having equity of access to transplantation.

This will include results of a survey of consultant kidney transplant surgeons and their understanding and knowledge (!) of the subject and a brief review of some of the literature.