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## Effect of COVID-19 Lockdowns on Physical Activity, Eating Behavior, Body Weight and Psychological Outcomes in a Post-Bariatric Cohort

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1 **Effect of COVID-19 lockdowns on physical activity, eating behavior, body weight and**  
2 **psychological outcomes in a post-bariatric cohort**

3

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39

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42

43 **Abstract**

44

45 **Purpose:** Little is known about the consequences of COVID-19 lockdowns on physical activity  
46 (PA), eating behavior and mental health in post-bariatric surgery (BS) patients. We aimed to  
47 analyze the relations between changes in PA during COVID-19 lockdowns and changes in  
48 body weight and a comprehensive set of lifestyle and psychological outcomes in patients who  
49 have undergone BS.

50 **Material and methods:** In April-May 2020 (lockdown#1), we performed an online survey in  
51 a cohort of 937 adults who underwent BS and were followed-up at our university medical  
52 center for at least one year. We assessed changes in PA, eating behavior, body weight, fatigue,  
53 and depression (PHQ-9). In November-December 2020 (lockdown#2), we recorded body  
54 weight in 280 patients who had reported decreased PA during lockdown #1.

55 **Results:** During lockdown #1 (N=420 patients included, 44% response rate), decreased PA  
56 was reported by 67% patients. Compared to those who reported increased or unchanged PA,  
57 patients with decreased PA were more likely to report a  $\geq 5\%$  weight gain (OR [95%CI]: 3.15  
58 [1.46-7.65], increased fatigue (2.08 [1.36-3.23]), a worsening of eating behavior (2.29 [1.47-  
59 3.58]), and moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms (4.74 [2.14-11.76]). During lockdown #2  
60 (N=225 patients, 80% response rate), significant weight gain since before lockdown #1 was  
61 reported (+2.8 [95% CI: 1.7-3.8] kg,  $p < 0.001$ ), with 36% patients reporting a  $\geq 5\%$  weight  
62 gain.

63 **Conclusions:** PA may counteract detrimental effects of COVID-19 lockdown on post-BS  
64 weight trajectories and mental health outcomes. Follow-up measures are needed in this setting  
65 to assess the long-term impact of lockdown.

66 **Keywords:** COVID-19, lockdown, bariatric surgery, physical activity, nutrition

67

68 **Key points**

- 69 • 67% of post-bariatric patients reported decreased physical activity during lockdown
- 70 • Patients who reported decreased physical activity reported greater weight regain
- 71 • They were also more likely to report moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms
- 72 • Eating behavior was adversely modified in patients with decreased physical activity

73 **Introduction**

74

75 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous countries around the world implemented  
76 periods of lockdown during the year 2020 [1]. In France, strict lockdown measures took place  
77 between March and May 2020 and between November and December 2020. These measures  
78 included the closure of most “non-essential” public places, businesses, and services, the  
79 placement on partial/technical unemployment or the adoption of telework by the majority of  
80 the working population, and the prohibition of being outdoors except to take care of essential  
81 needs [2]. Recreational activity was only allowed for one hour within a one-kilometer radius  
82 from one’s residential address. As a consequence, a decrease in physical activity (PA) occurred  
83 during the COVID-19 lockdown throughout many countries and in different populations [3].  
84 In France, 47% of a representative sample of 2000 adults reported decreased PA during  
85 compared to before lockdown [4].

86

87 PA is an important component of the management of patients undergoing bariatric surgery  
88 (BS), as it is associated with a substantial improvement in physical fitness and a slightly greater  
89 weight loss after BS [5]. PA may also prevent weight regain after BS [5]. Two online surveys  
90 conducted in the USA reported a decrease in PA during the COVID-19 lockdown in 49% and  
91 55% of patients with a history of BS [6,7]. In addition, two studies conducted in the context of  
92 COVID-19 lockdown in the USA and in Italy in 208 and 48 patients after BS, respectively,  
93 found that a decrease in PA, or a lower weekly duration of PA, was associated with a greater  
94 weight gain, thus suggesting the importance of PA for weight control after BS [6,8].

95

96 Dietary habits and mental health have also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19  
97 lockdown in post-BS cohorts, although their relations with PA have not been investigated in

98 this population [6]. A large proportion of patients with a history of BS reported a decrease in  
99 healthy food eating (46%) and an increase in snacking (63%), loss of control when eating  
100 (48%) or depressed mood (44%) [6], or anxiety (67%) and depression (83%) [7]. In the general  
101 population [9], as well as in patients with obesity [10], PA during lockdown has been associated  
102 with a lower prevalence of depressive symptoms and anxiety disorders [9,10]. The associations  
103 between the change in PA during the lockdown and mental health outcomes warrant further  
104 investigation in patients with a history of BS.

105

106 Therefore, the aim of this study was to analyze the relations between changes in PA during  
107 COVID-19 lockdown and changes in body weight and a comprehensive set of lifestyle and  
108 psychological outcomes in patients with obesity who had undergone BS.

109

## 110 **Material and Methods**

111

### 112 **Study cohort**

113 The study is based on a BS cohort of 937 patients followed-up at a single academic medical  
114 center (Nutrition department of Pitié-Salpêtrière university hospital; Paris, France) since 2014.  
115 Patients were operated by Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), sleeve gastrectomy (SG) or  
116 laparoscopic adjustable gastric band (LAGB). However, we excluded LAGB patients due to  
117 their small number (N=3) and their worse BS outcomes in general [11]. Furthermore, we  
118 excluded patients who had been operated less than one year before the first COVID-19  
119 lockdown, since maximum weight loss usually occurs at approximately one year after BS.  
120 Detailed clinical and anthropometric measures were obtained before surgery [12]. Body  
121 composition was assessed based on whole-body dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan  
122 (Hologic Discovery W, software v12.9; Hologic, Bedford, MA) [13]. Ethical approval was

123 obtained from the French Research Ethics Committee of CPP Ile de France-1 N°13533 and the  
124 “Commission nationale de l’informatique et des libertés” No. 1222666.

125

### 126 **Data collection during COVID-19 lockdowns**

127 A first COVID-19 lockdown (lockdown #1) took place in France from March 17<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>  
128 2020. The 937 BS patients followed in the cohort were contacted by phone and 738 patients  
129 provided information about their current medical situation (Figure 1) [12]. Of these, 500  
130 patients also contributed to an online survey including a set of standardized questions that has  
131 been used in a large cohort study at the national level [14]. Eighty patients were further  
132 excluded for the reasons detailed above. Therefore, 420 patients were included in the present  
133 analyses.

134

135 The questions pertained to professional occupation and characteristics of lockdown, as well as  
136 the perceived changes during lockdown in PA and sedentary behavior, diet quality and eating  
137 behavior, alcohol consumption and smoking, sleep duration, and fatigue. Subjects were asked  
138 whether they had, in general, increased, decreased or not modified their habitual PA level  
139 during lockdown (question formulated as follows: “*Compared to before the lockdown, your*  
140 *physical activity level: increased/ did not change/ decreased/ do not know*). Detailed  
141 information was also collected regarding the different types of PA performed over the last  
142 seven days, and whether this activity had been started during lockdown. Questions related to  
143 eating behavior were formulated as follows: “*Compared to before the lockdown... 1) Your*  
144 *current diet is: better/ neither better nor less good/ less good/ do not know*”, 2) *You snack:*  
145 *more often/ neither less nor more/ less often*, 3) *You have more/neither more nor less/less*  
146 *cravings for food*, 4) *You experience more/ neither more nor fewer/ fewer episodes of eating*  
147 *large amounts of food and feeling like you lose control*, 5) *You experience more/ neither more*



148 *nor less/ less night-time food consumption*". Patients were asked to report body weight  
149 measured at home before lockdown and at the time of the survey only if specifically measured  
150 with a scale. Finally, the presence of depressive symptoms and anxiety were assessed using the  
151 Patient Health Questionnaire–9 scale (PHQ-9) [15] and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder–7  
152 scale (GAD-7) [16], respectively.

153 A second lockdown period (lockdown #2) took place in France seven months later from  
154 October 30<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. For practical reasons, only patients who had reported a  
155 decrease in PA during the first lockdown (N= 280) were contacted by e-mail and by phone  
156 before and during lockdown #2 to report their current body weight. A total of 225 patients  
157 responded to this survey (i.e., a response rate of 80%).

158

### 159 **Statistical analysis**

160 Values are presented as mean (SD) for continuous variables and as absolute values  
161 (percentages) for categorical variables. Individual characteristics were compared according to  
162 gender using Student's *t*-tests for continuous variables and Pearson's chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test or  
163 Fisher's exact test for categorical variables. Individual characteristics were also compared  
164 according to the change in PA during lockdown #1 (decrease vs. no change or increase in PA)  
165 using multivariate logistic regression models including age, gender, type of surgery, and time  
166 elapsed since BS as covariates. Linear mixed models adjusted for baseline body weight (before  
167 lockdown #1) were used to assess changes in body weight over time. The terms "gender,"  
168 "time," and "gender  $\times$  time" were included as fixed effects. All tests were two-sided and a P-  
169 value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. Analyses were conducted using R  
170 software version 4.0.3 (<http://www.r-project.org>).

171

### 172 **Results**

173

#### 174 **Individual characteristics of participants**

175 Participants were middle-aged, mostly women (81%), and the most frequent procedure  
176 performed was RYGB (56%) (Supplementary Table 1). Patients included in this study did not  
177 differ from the non-included patients in terms of gender, preoperative age, BMI or body mass  
178 (Supplementary Table 2). However, they were more likely to present a comorbidity such as  
179 type 2 diabetes, hypertension or sleep apnea syndrome. The mean (SD) time elapsed between  
180 the time of BS and the time of the survey was 4.0 (2.5) y, and the mean percent total weight  
181 loss since the surgery was 28.7 (10.0) % (Supplementary Table 3). The mean weight loss at 1-  
182 year post-surgery was 29.7 (8.2) %. Since then, 45.0% of the patients experienced additional  
183 weight loss (-5.8 (4.8) % of 1-year body weight on average), and 55.0% experienced weight  
184 maintenance or weight regain (+7.2 (7.7) % of 1-year body weight on average). The vast  
185 majority of participants spent the lockdown #1 period at their usual place of residence, and a  
186 minority of participants reported following strict lockdown measures (i.e., no outings during  
187 the lockdown period).

188

#### 189 **Change in PA during lockdown #1**

190 Two thirds of the participants reported a decrease in PA during lockdown #1 whereas one third  
191 reported either an increase or no change in PA (Supplementary Table 4). As shown in Table 1,  
192 a decrease in PA during lockdown #1 was associated with older age, a shorter time elapsed  
193 since BS, lower BMI loss since surgery, working from home, and a higher use of anti-anxiety  
194 drugs. The most frequently performed PA during lockdown #1 were house cleaning, walking  
195 and gardening, with no significant differences according to the change in PA (Figure 2).  
196 Compared to participants who reported a decrease in PA, those reporting an increase or no

197 change in PA were more likely to have engaged in indoor cycling or resistance training, and  
198 more likely to have started these PA during lockdown #1 (all  $P < 0.05$ ).

199

## 200 **Changes in body weight, lifestyle and psychological outcomes during lockdown #1, and** 201 **associations with the change in PA**

202 Body weight increased on average by 1.5 (3.4) % during lockdown #1, and 13% of participants  
203 reported a  $\geq 5\%$  increase in body weight (Supplementary Table 4). Overall, 65% of participants  
204 reported an increase in sitting time, 30% reported a lower diet quality, and 64% reported a  
205 worsening in at least one eating behavior. A minority of participants reported an increase in  
206 alcohol consumption or smoking (10% and 8%, respectively). Increased fatigue and shorter  
207 sleep duration were reported by 45% and 30% of participants, respectively. Finally, 13% of  
208 participants reported moderately severe to severe depressive symptoms, and 8% reported  
209 severe anxiety. A decrease in PA was associated with a greater weight gain (mean [SD]: 2.1  
210 [3.6] vs. 0.4 [2.6] %,  $P < 0.001$ ) and longer screen time (Table 2). Participants who reported a  
211 decrease in PA were also more likely to report a  $\geq 5\%$  weight gain, lower diet quality, an  
212 increase in snacking, cravings and night-time eating, a decrease in sleep time, an increase in  
213 fatigue, and mild to severe depressive symptoms (all  $P < 0.05$ ).

214

## 215 **Changes in body weight between before lockdown #1 to lockdown #2**

216 Since a significant weight gain was observed in patients who had reported decreased PA during  
217 lockdown #1, these patients were followed-up 7 months later before and during lockdown #2  
218 to record changes in body weight over this period of time. Of these, 71.6% reported a decrease  
219 in PA during lockdown #2. There was a significant weight gain (mean [95% CI]: +2.8 [1.7-  
220 3.8] kg,  $p < 0.001$  for time effect), which was greater in women (+3.0 [1.8-4.1] kg in women,

221 +2.5 [0.3-4.7] kg in men,  $p < 0.05$  for gender x time interaction) (Figure 3). Overall, 77.3%  
222 reported weight gain and 36.3% of participants reported a  $\geq 5\%$  weight gain.

223

## 224 **Discussion**

225 This study aimed to analyze the relations between the self-reported change in PA during the  
226 COVID-19 lockdown and a set of lifestyle and psychological outcomes in a cohort of 420  
227 patients with a history of BS. Two thirds of patients reported a decrease in PA, which is in line  
228 with previous studies that found decreased PA in 40 to 61% of adults with obesity [10,17] and  
229 49 to 55% of patients who underwent BS [6,7]. Although outdoor PA was restricted to one  
230 hour per day in a 1-km radius around home, outdoor walking was the most frequently  
231 performed leisure-time PA. Interestingly, patients who were able to maintain or increase PA  
232 during the lockdown were more likely to engage in indoor activities such as cycling or  
233 resistance training, and to have started these activities during the lockdown. This shift toward  
234 indoor activities may have been favored by the communication campaigns that were carried  
235 out to promote home-based PA during the lockdown [18–20].

236

237 We found a significant association between decreased PA and depressive symptoms, which is  
238 in agreement with a recent systematic review concluding that PA was associated with less  
239 depression during lockdown in adults [9]. Although observational, our findings and others  
240 suggest that promoting PA may be an effective strategy to reduce the negative effects of  
241 COVID-19 lockdowns on mental health outcomes. This may be particularly important in the  
242 post-BS setting, considering the disconcerting proportion of patients who reported moderately  
243 severe to severe depressive symptoms (26% in our cohort). Patients with obesity may be  
244 particularly vulnerable to the consequences of lockdown, for several reasons. First, obesity is  
245 a risk factor for severe forms of SARS-Cov-2 infection [21] and associated mortality [22], and

246 the fear of infection is known to be one of the main stressors during quarantine [23]. Second,  
247 obesity is associated with a lower socioeconomical level [24], described as a risk factor for  
248 mental health deterioration during the COVID-19 lockdown [25,26]. Finally, most healthcare  
249 services were reduced or completely cancelled for several months after the outbreak of the  
250 pandemic, leaving many patients with obesity with insufficient care or support [27].

251

252 During the first period of lockdown that occurred in France between March and May 2020, we  
253 observed a mean weight gain of 1.5% of pre-lockdown body weight in our cohort of patients  
254 with at least one year of follow-up after BS. This is comparable to the 2 kg average weight gain  
255 previously reported in patients who were more than 18 months post-BS [6]. The average weight  
256 gain reached a total of 2.8 kg at the second period of lockdown that took place in November  
257 and December 2020 among patients who had reported decreased PA during the first lockdown,  
258 with 36% of them reporting more than 5% weight gain. These findings show the detrimental  
259 effect of COVID-19 lockdown on weight trajectories after BS, with potentially negative  
260 consequences such as a relapse in obesity comorbidities and decreased quality of life, both  
261 tightly linked to weight regain after BS [28,29].

262

263 Importantly, during the first lockdown, the self-reported decrease in PA was associated with a  
264 greater weight gain (2.1% vs. 0.4%) and an increased proportion of patients with a  $\geq 5\%$  weight  
265 gain (16% vs. 6%). The decrease in PA was also associated with other behaviors that may have  
266 favored weight gain, such as increased screen time and a worsening of diet quality and eating  
267 behavior (i.e. snacking, cravings, loss of control episodes and night-time eating). These  
268 findings show the importance of providing extra care and support to post-BS patients who  
269 experienced important weight gain and a worsening of weight-related behavior or mental health  
270 outcomes during lockdown.

271

272 Our study presents some limitations. First, it relied on self-reported data, as is most often the  
273 case for online surveys. This may be of particular concern regarding the change in body weight  
274 reported during the lockdown periods, although evidence suggests that self-reported weight  
275 can be considered sufficiently accurate in patients undergoing BS when objective weight  
276 measurements are not available [30,31]. Second, most questions focused on the perceived  
277 change in health-related behaviors during the lockdown. This was specifically the case for the  
278 assessment of PA, where no information was collected regarding PA frequency or duration.  
279 Although our data showed a worsening of several outcomes in post-bariatric patients with  
280 decreased PA during the COVID-19 lockdown, they do not allow firm conclusions to be drawn  
281 on the potential benefits that PA may have in this context. Third, the generalization of our  
282 findings may be limited in the sense that most patients followed-up at our medical center live  
283 in the same area, and regional disparities were reported during the pandemic [32]. The patients  
284 included in this study were also more likely to suffer from a comorbidity before surgery  
285 compared to other patients followed up at our center, and they may, therefore, not be  
286 representative of the post-bariatric population as a whole. Finally, only selected patients were  
287 followed during the second lockdown (i.e.s those with decreased PA during the first lockdown),  
288 and we were not able to describe the changes occurring in the remaining patients who had  
289 reported no change or an increase in PA during the first lockdown.

290

291 In conclusion, French patients with a history of BS who reported decreased PA during the first  
292 period of COVID-19 lockdown (April-May 2020) were more likely to report weight gain, a  
293 worsening of eating behavior, increased fatigue, and more severe depressive symptoms. During  
294 the second period of lockdown (November-December 2020), one third of these same patients  
295 reported a  $\geq 5\%$  weight gain, suggesting a detrimental effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on

296 post-BS weight trajectories. Overall, these results point out the need to strengthen the  
297 behavioral management of patients who have undergone BS to counteract the negative impact  
298 of the pandemic.

299

### 300 **Ethical Approval**

301 All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the  
302 ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964  
303 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

304

305 **Conflict of Interest:** The authors (Alice Bellicha, Pierre Bel Lassen, Christine Poitou, Laurent  
306 Genser, Florence Marchelli, Judith Aron-Wisnewsky, Cécile Ciangura, Flavien Jacques,  
307 Pauline Moreau, NutriOmics investigators, Karine Clément, Jean-Michel Oppert) declare that  
308 they have no conflict of interest.

309

### 310 **Informed consent**

311 Written informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

312

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410

411 **Figures legends**

412

413 **Figure 1. Flow chart**

414 LAGB, laparoscopic gastric banding; RYGB, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass; SG, sleeve  
415 gastrectomy

416

417 **Figure 2. Participation (%) in leisure-time and domestic physical activity during  
418 lockdown #1 (April-May 2020)**

419 The lines represent the proportion of patients who participated in each type of physical activity  
420 during the lockdown period. The symbol (◆) represents the proportion of patients who started  
421 this physical activity during the lockdown.

422 \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001. P-values from  $\chi^2$  test or Fisher exact test, representing  
423 the difference between patients who experienced a decrease vs. an increase or no change in  
424 physical activity during lockdown.

425

426 **Figure 3. Body weight (kg) during lockdown #1 (April-May 2020) and lockdown #2 (Nov-  
427 Dec 2020) in post-bariatric patients who had reported a decrease in physical activity  
428 during lockdown #1 (N= 280)**

429 Data are mean (95% CI).

430 P-values for gender, time, and interaction (gender  $\times$  time) terms in mixed models (adjusted for  
431 body weight reported before lockdown #1).

432 <sup>a</sup> Significantly different from body weight reported before lockdown #1. <sup>b</sup> Significantly  
433 different from body weight reported during lockdown #1.

434

435 **Table 1. Characteristics of post-bariatric patients according to changes in physical**  
 436 **activity during COVID-19 lockdown #1 (April-May 2020)**

|  | Change in physical activity during lockdown |                      |                          |                                  |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Increase/<br>no change<br>(N = 140)         | Decrease<br>(N= 280) | OR [95% CI] <sup>a</sup> | Adjusted<br>P-value <sup>a</sup> |
| Gender, ref: Women                                       | 118 (84.3%)                                 | 221 (78.9%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Men  | 22 (15.7%)                                  | 59 (21.1%)           | 1.34 [0.78-2.34]         | 0.29                             |
| Age, y   | 48.1 (13.3)                                 | 51.4 (11.2)          | 1.03 [1.01-1.05]         | <b>0.003</b>                     |
| Type of surgery, ref: RYGB                               | 74 (52.9%)                                  | 159 (56.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Sleeve   | 66 (47.1%)                                  | 121 (43.2%)          | 0.74 [0.48-1.14]         | 0.18                             |
| BMI at surgery, kg/m <sup>2</sup>                        | 46.1 (6.9)                                  | 44.2 (6.5)           | 0.96 [0.93-0.99]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| Current BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>                           | 32.1 (6.5)                                  | 32.2 (5.7)           | 1.00 [0.96-1.04]         | 0.98                             |
| % total weight loss since surgery, %                     | -30.2 (10.6)                                | -28.0 (9.6)          | 1.02 [1.00-1.05]         | 0.09                             |
| Time elapse since surgery, y                             | 4.4 (2.5)                                   | 3.9 (2.5)            | 0.89 [0.81-0.97]         | <b>0.005</b>                     |
| Time elapse since surgery, y, ref: [1-5]                 | 82 (58.6%)                                  | 202 (72.1%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| > 5  | 58 (41.4%)                                  | 78 (27.9%)           | 0.89 [0.81; 0.97]        | <b>0.005</b>                     |
| Type of lockdown, ref: Partial                           | 118 (84.3%)                                 | 232 (83.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Total  | 22 (15.7%)                                  | 45 (16.2)            | 1.07 [0.61-1.91]         | 0.81                             |
| Lockdown at usual place, ref: Yes                        | 131 (93.6%)                                 | 269 (96.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| No   | 9 (6.4%)                                    | 9 (3.2%)             | 0.49 [0.18-1.31]         | 0.15                             |
| Professional activity during lockdown,<br>ref: No change | 48 (34.3%)                                  | 70 (25.1%)           | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Work from home   | 21 (15.0%)                                  | 63 (22.6%)           | 2.08 [1.12-3.98]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| No professional activity prior lockdown                  | 28 (20.0%)                                  | 52 (18.6%)           | 1.15 [0.63-2.14]         | 0.64                             |
| Temporary unemployment                                   | 17 (12.1%)                                  | 22 (7.9%)            | 1.07 [0.50-2.30]         | 0.86                             |
| Other situation  | 26 (18.6%)                                  | 72 (25.8%)           | 1.99 [1.11-3.65]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| Number of outings per week                               | 3.3 (2.3)                                   | 3.0 (2.3)            | 0.93 [0.84-1.03]         | 0.15                             |
| Duration of outings, min/week                            | 171 (253)                                   | 137 (214)            | 1.00 [0.99-1.00]         | 0.24                             |
| Went out for work, ref: Yes                              | 28 (20.0%)                                  | 48 (17.1%)           | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| No   | 112 (80.0%)                                 | 232 (82.9%)          | 1.14 [0.66-1.86]         | 0.64                             |
| Went out for food shopping, ref: Yes                     | 91 (65.0%)                                  | 202 (72.1%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| No   | 49 (35.0%)                                  | 78 (27.9%)           | 0.73 [0.47-1.14]         | 0.17                             |
| Went out for physical activity, ref: Yes                 | 41 (29.3%)                                  | 53 (18.9%)           | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| No   | 99 (70.7%)                                  | 227 (81.1%)          | 2.02 [1.23-3.31]         | <b>0.006</b>                     |
| Smoking status, ref: Not smoker                          | 120 (87.0%)                                 | 242 (87.7%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Current smoker   | 18 (13.0%)                                  | 34 (12.3%)           | 1.07 [0.57-2.04]         | 0.84                             |
| Use of anti-anxiety drugs, ref: No                       | 129 (92.1%)                                 | 233 (83.2%)          | 1.00                     | Ref                              |
| Yes  | 11 (7.9%)                                   | 47 (16.8%)           | 2.70 [1.37-5.76]         | <b>0.006</b>                     |
| Use of anti-depressant drugs, ref: No                    | 126 (90.0%)                                 | 231 (82.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Yes  | 14 (10.0%)                                  | 48 (17.2%)           | 1.85 [0.97-3.66]         | 0.05                             |

437 <sup>a</sup> Logistic regression with age, gender, type of surgery and time since bariatric surgery as covariates.

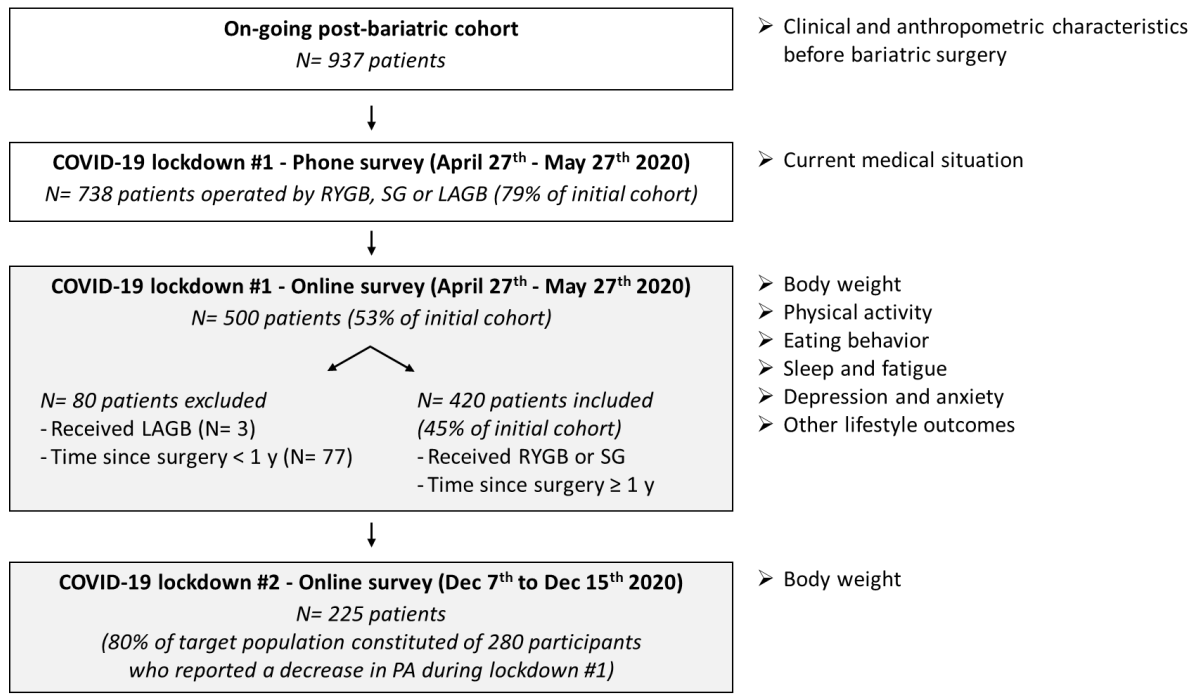
438 **Table 2. Changes in body weight, health-related behaviors and mental health outcomes**  
439 **in post-bariatric patients according to changes in physical activity during COVID-19**  
440 **lockdown #1 (April-May 2020)**

|   | Change in physical activity during lockdown |                      |                          |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
|   | Increase/<br>no change<br>(N = 140)         | Decrease<br>(N= 280) | OR [95% CI] <sup>a</sup> | Adjusted<br>P-value <sup>a</sup> |
| <b>Body weight</b>  |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| Change in body weight, %                                    | 0.4 (2.6)                                   | 2.1 (3.6)            | 1.20 [1.11-1.30]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| Change in body weight, %, ref: Moderate increase: [0 to 5%] | 98 (76.0%)                                  | 187 (73.3%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Decrease: < 0%  | 23 (17.8%)                                  | 28 (11.0%)           | 0.70 [0.37-1.31]         | 0.25                             |
| Large increase: ≥ 5%  | 8 (6.2%)                                    | 40 (15.7%)           | 3.15 [1.46-7.65]         | <b>0.006</b>                     |
| <b>Sitting time</b>   |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| Change in sitting time, ref: Decrease/no change             | 75 (54.3%)                                  | 69 (25.0%)           | 1.00                     | Ref                              |
| Increase  | 63 (45.7%)                                  | 207 (75.0%)          | 3.83 [2.46-6.02]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| Sitting time, h/d   | 6.8 (3.8)                                   | 7.5 (3.6)            | 1.05 [0.99-1.12]         | 0.10                             |
| Screen time, h/d  | 5.1 (3.0)                                   | 6.4 (3.4)            | 1.15 [1.07-1.24]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| <b>Diet quality and eating behavior</b>                     |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| Change in diet quality, ref: No change/better               | 103 (75.7%)                                 | 178 (67.2%)          | 1.00                     | Ref                              |
| Lower quality   | 33 (24.3%)                                  | 87 (32.8%)           | 1.68 [1.05-2.75]         | <b>0.034</b>                     |
| Unfavorable change in eating behavior*, ref: No             | 65 (48.5%)                                  | 81 (30.3%)           | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Yes   | 69 (51.5%)                                  | 186 (69.7%)          | 2.29 [1.47-3.58]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| Change in snacking, ref: No change/decrease                 | 96 (68.6%)                                  | 137 (49.5%)          | 1.00                     | Ref                              |
| Increase  | 44 (31.4%)                                  | 140 (50.5%)          | 2.33 [1.51-3.63]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| Change in cravings, ref: No change/decrease                 | 99 (70.7%)                                  | 138 (49.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 41 (29.3%)                                  | 139 (50.2%)          | 2.80 [1.79-4.44]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| Change in loss of control episodes, ref: No change/decrease | 101 (74.3%)                                 | 184 (66.7%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 35 (25.7%)                                  | 92 (33.3%)           | 1.57 [0.99-2.54]         | 0.06                             |
| Change in night-time eating, ref: No change/decrease        | 111 (82.2%)                                 | 200 (73.0%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 24 (17.8%)                                  | 74 (27.0%)           | 1.85 [1.10-3.19]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| <b>Alcohol and smoking consumption</b>                      |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| Change in alcohol consumption, ref: No change/decrease      | 127 (92.0%)                                 | 247 (88.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 11 (8.0%)                                   | 31 (11.2%)           | 1.47 [0.72-3.18]         | 0.29                             |
| Change in smoking, ref: No change/decrease                  | 129 (93.5%)                                 | 251 (90.6%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 9 (6.5%)                                    | 26 (9.4%)            | 1.65 [0.76-3.89]         | 0.21                             |
| <b>Sleep and fatigue</b>                                    |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| Change in sleep duration, ref: No change/increase           | 108 (77.1%)                                 | 185 (66.8%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Decrease  | 32 (22.9%)                                  | 92 (33.2%)           | 1.82 [1.13-2.98]         | <b>0.01</b>                      |
| Sleep duration, h   | 6.9 (1.6)                                   | 6.8 (1.6)            | 0.99 [0.87-1.13]         | 0.88                             |
| Change in fatigue, ref: No change/decrease                  | 92 (65.7%)                                  | 139 (49.6%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Increase  | 48 (34.3%)                                  | 141 (50.4%)          | 2.08 [1.36-3.23]         | < <b>0.001</b>                   |
| <b>Mental health outcomes</b>                               |   |                      |                          |                                  |
| GAD-7 score, ref: Minimal                                   | 81 (61.4%)                                  | 135 (51.9%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Mild  | 26 (19.7%)                                  | 63 (24.2%)           | 1.85 [1.06-3.28]         | <b>0.03</b>                      |
| Moderate  | 17 (12.9%)                                  | 39 (15.0%)           | 1.69 [0.89-3.36]         | 0.12                             |
| Severe  | 8 (6.1%)                                    | 23 (8.8%)            | 2.42 [1.03-6.18]         | 0.05                             |
| PHQ-9 score, ref: Minimal                                   | 76 (58.5%)                                  | 109 (42.6%)          | 1.00                     | ref                              |
| Mild  | 32 (24.6%)                                  | 69 (27.0%)           | 1.91 [1.12-3.31]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| Moderate  | 14 (10.8%)                                  | 37 (14.5%)           | 2.28 [1.14-4.76]         | <b>0.02</b>                      |
| Moderately severe to severe                                 | 8 (6.2%)                                    | 41 (16.0%)           | 4.74 [2.14-11.76]        | < <b>0.001</b>                   |

441 <sup>a</sup> Logistic regression with age, gender, type of surgery and time since bariatric surgery as covariates.

442 \* Patients reporting at least one negative change among the following outcomes: snacking, cravings, loss of control episodes,

443 night-time eating.



**Figure 1**

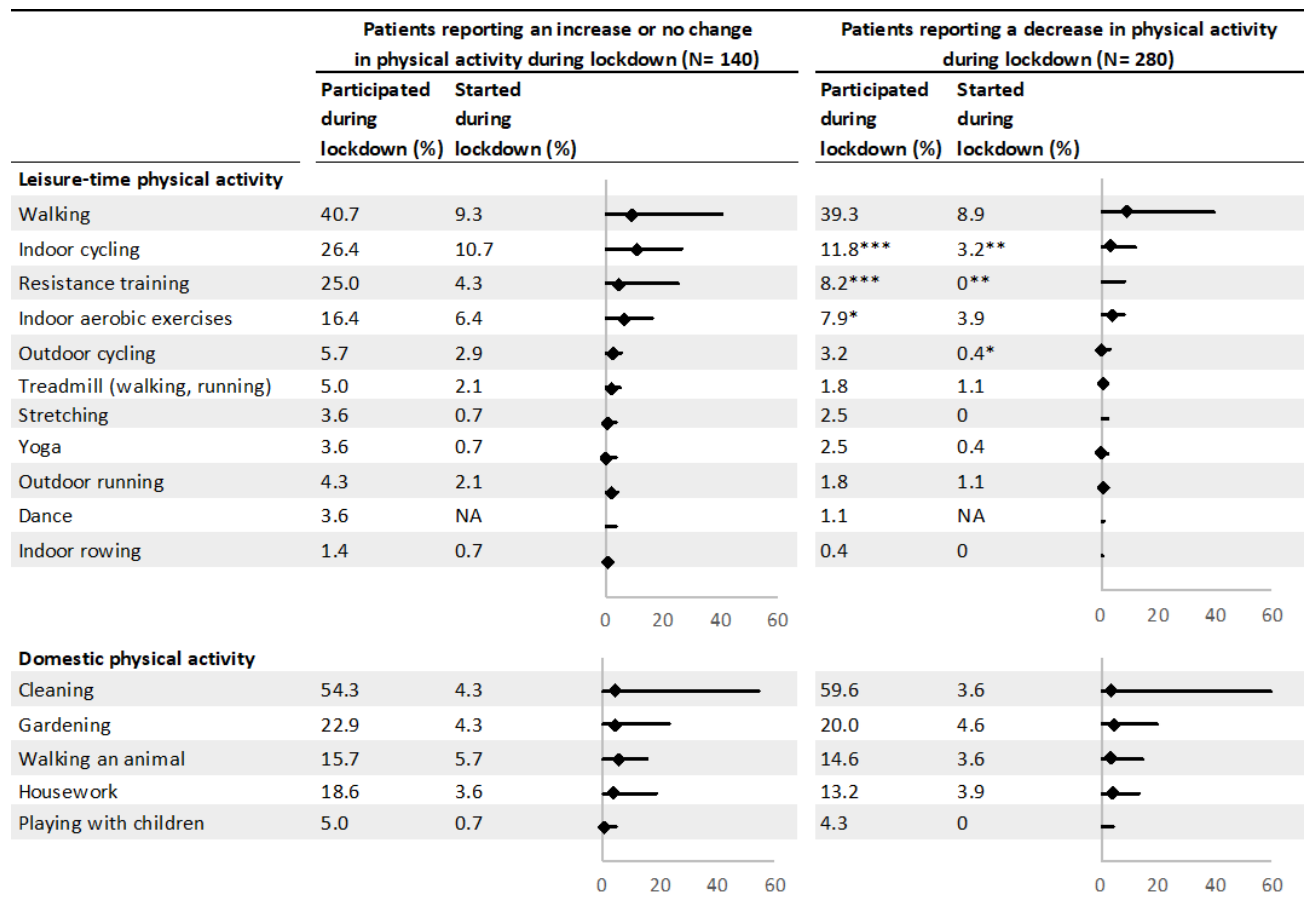
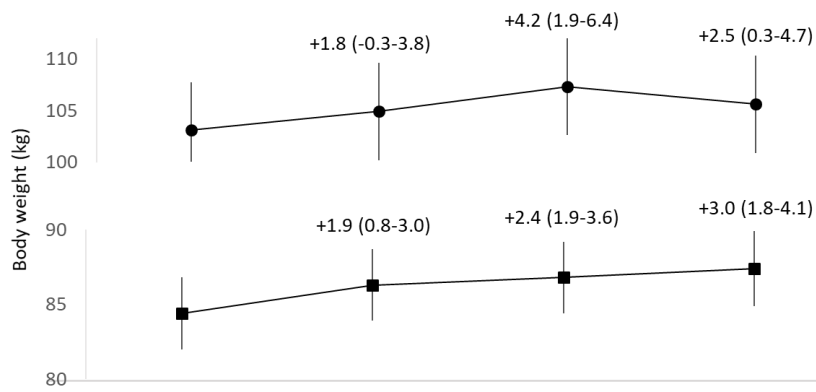


Figure 2





|           |    | Mean body weight (95% CI) |                               |                                    |                                  | P-value |         |               |
|-----------|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------|
|           |    | Before lockdown #1        | During lockdown #1            | Before lockdown #2                 | During lockdown #2               | Gender  | Time    | Gender x Time |
| All       | N  | 262                       | 260                           | 203                                | 225                              | 0.67    | < 0.001 | 0.047         |
|           | kg | 87.7 (87.1-88.4)          | 89.5 (88.8-90.1) <sup>a</sup> | 91.0 (90.3-91.7) <sup>a,b</sup>    | 90.5 (89.8-91.2) <sup>a</sup>    |         |         |               |
| Men (●)   | N  | 58                        | 55                            | 45                                 | 46                               | --      | --      | --            |
|           | kg | 103.1 (98.5-107.8)        | 104.9 (100.2-109.6)           | 107.3 (102.6-112.0) <sup>a,b</sup> | 105.6 (100.9-110.3) <sup>a</sup> |         |         |               |
| Women (■) | N  | 204                       | 205                           | 158                                | 179                              | --      | --      | --            |
|           | kg | 84.4 (82.0-86.9)          | 86.3 (83.9-88.7) <sup>a</sup> | 86.8 (84.4-89.3) <sup>a</sup>      | 87.4 (84.9-89.8) <sup>a</sup>    |         |         |               |

**Figure 3**

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

**Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of subjects from the cohort before bariatric surgery**

|                        | N   | All<br>(N= 420) | Women<br>(N= 339) | Men<br>(N= 81) | P-value          |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Age at surgery, y      | 420 | 46.3 (12.0)     | 45.8 (11.8)       | 48.5 (12.5)    | 0.08             |
| Type of surgery        | 420 |                 |                   |                | 1                |
| RYGB, n (%)            |     | 233 (55.5%)     | 188 (55.5%)       | 45 (55.6%)     |                  |
| SG, n (%)              |     | 187 (44.5%)     | 151 (44.5%)       | 36 (44.4%)     |                  |
| Body weight, kg        | 402 | 123.8 (21.8)    | 119.5 (18.4)      | 142.5 (25.3)   | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |
| BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> | 402 | 44.8 (6.7)      | 44.6 (6.3)        | 45.7 (7.8)     | 0.23             |
| Body fat, %            | 365 | 48.4 (4.9)      | 49.7 (3.7)        | 42.0 (4.9)     | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |
| Comorbidities, n (%)   |     |                 |                   |                |                  |
| Type 2 diabetes        | 398 | 161 (40.5%)     | 121 (37.4%)       | 40 (54.1%)     | <b>0.01</b>      |
| Hypertension           | 395 | 188 (47.6%)     | 140 (43.8%)       | 48 (64.0%)     | <b>0.002</b>     |
| Sleep apnea            | 398 | 277 (69.6%)     | 206 (64.0%)       | 71 (93.4%)     | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |

Data are mean (SD) or n (%).

P-value from Student's *t*-test for continuous data and from  $\chi^2$  test for categorical data.

RYGB, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass; SG, sleeve gastrectomy

**Supplementary Table 2. Characteristics of patients from the post-bariatric cohort included (N= 420) and not included (N= 517) in the present study**

|                        | N   | Included<br>(N= 420) | Not included<br>(N= 517) | P-value      |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Women                  | 937 | 321 (76.4%)          | 405 (78.3%)              | 0.54         |
| Age at surgery, y      | 937 | 46.3 (12.0)          | 45.6 (12.3)              | 0.37         |
| Type of surgery        | 931 |                      |                          | 0.06         |
| RYGB, n (%)            |     | 233 (55.5%)          | 293 (57.1%)              |              |
| SG, n (%)              |     | 187 (44.5%)          | 214 (41.7%)              |              |
| GB, n (%)              |     | 0 (0%)               | 6 (1.2%)                 |              |
| Body weight, kg        | 896 | 123.8 (21.8)         | 124.6 (21.8)             | 0.58         |
| BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> | 896 | 44.8 (6.7)           | 45. (6.8)                | 0.57         |
| Body fat, %            | 807 | 48.4 (4.9)           | 47.8 (5.3)               | 0.09         |
| Comorbidities, n (%)   |     |                      |                          |              |
| Type 2 diabetes        | 886 | 161 (40.5%)          | 238 (48.8%)              | <b>0.02</b>  |
| Hypertension           | 883 | 188 (47.6%)          | 286 (58.6%)              | <b>0.001</b> |
| Sleep apnea            | 885 | 277 (69.6%)          | 369 (75.8%)              | <b>0.048</b> |

Data are mean (SD) or n (%).

P-value from Student's *t*-test for continuous data and from  $\chi^2$  test for categorical data.

GV, gastric banding; RYGB, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass; SG, sleeve gastrectomy

**Supplementary Table 3. Characteristics of the cohort during lockdown #1 (April-May 2020) according to gender**

|  | N   | All<br>(N= 420) | Women<br>(N= 339) | Men<br>(N= 81) | P                |
|--|-----|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Characteristics at the time of the survey</b> |     |                 |                   |                |                  |
| Age, y   | 420 | 50.3 (12.0)     | 49.8 (11.9)       | 52.3 (12.4)    | 0.10             |
| Time since surgery, y                            | 420 | 4.0 (2.5)       | 4.1 (2.6)         | 3.9 (2.1)      | 0.66             |
| Time since surgery, n (%)                        | 420 |                 |                   |                | 0.55             |
| 1-5 y  |     | 284 (67.6%)     | 232 (68.4%)       | 52 (64.2%)     |                  |
| > 5 y  |     | 136 (32.4%)     | 107 (31.6%)       | 29 (35.8%)     |                  |
| % total weight loss since surgery, %             | 376 | -28.7 (10.0)    | -29.1 (9.7)       | -27.0 (11.0)   | 0.13             |
| Current body weight, kg                          | 389 | 89.1 (18.8)     | 85.5 (16.4)       | 103.4 (21.0)   | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |
| Current BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>                   | 371 | 32.1 (6.0)      | 31.9 (5.8)        | 33.2 (6.7)     | 0.14             |
| Current smoker, n (%)                            | 414 | 52 (12.6%)      | 42 (12.5%)        | 10 (12.7%)     | 1                |
| Takes anti-anxiety drugs, n (%)                  | 420 | 58 (13.8%)      | 49 (14.5%)        | 9 (11.1%)      | 0.54             |
| Takes anti-depressant drugs, n (%)               | 419 | 62 (14.8%)      | 52 (15.4%)        | 10 (12.3%)     | 0.60             |
| Lockdown at usual place, n (%)                   | 418 | 400 (95.7%)     | 324 (96.1%)       | 76 (93.8%)     | 0.54             |
| Partial lockdown, n (%)                          | 417 | 350 (83.9%)     | 281 (83.6%)       | 69 (85.2%)     | 0.86             |
| Professional activity during lockdown, n (%)     | 419 |                 |                   |                | 0.33             |
| No change  |     | 118 (28.2%)     | 95 (28.1%)        | 23 (28.4%)     |                  |
| Work from home                                   |     | 84 (20.0%)      | 71 (21.0%)        | 13 (16.0%)     |                  |
| Did not work before                              |     | 80 (19.1%)      | 59 (17.5%)        | 21 (25.9%)     |                  |
| Temporary unemployment                           |     | 39 (9.3%)       | 30 (8.9%)         | 9 (11.1%)      |                  |
| Other situation                                  |     | 98 (23.4%)      | 83 (24.6%)        | 15 (18.5%)     |                  |
| Number of outings per week                       | 344 | 3.1 (2.3)       | 3.0 (2.3)         | 3.2 (2.2)      | 0.46             |
| Duration of outings, min/week                    | 325 | 149 (228)       | 143 (203)         | 172 (312)      | 0.49             |
| Went out for food shopping, n (%)                | 420 | 293 (69.8%)     | 234 (69.0%)       | 59 (72.8%)     | 0.59             |
| Went out for physical activity, n (%)            | 420 | 94 (22.4%)      | 77 (22.7%)        | 17 (21.0%)     | 0.85             |
| Went out for work, n (%)                         | 420 | 76 (18.1%)      | 63 (18.6%)        | 13 (16.0%)     | 0.71             |

Data are mean (SD) or n (%). P-value from Student's *t*-test for continuous data and from  $\chi^2$  test for categorical data.

**Supplementary Table 4. Changes in body weight, health-related behaviors and mental health outcomes according to gender during lockdown #1 (April-May 2020)**

|   | N   | All<br>(N= 420) | Women<br>(N= 339) | Men<br>(N= 81) | P           |
|---|-----|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Body weight</b>                            |     |                 |                   |                |             |
| Change in body weight, kg                     | 384 | 1.3 (2.9)       | 1.4 (3.0)         | 1.0 (2.5)      | 0.25        |
| Change in body weight, %                      | 384 | 1.5 (3.4)       | 1.7 (3.6)         | 0.9 (2.6)      | <b>0.03</b> |
| Change in body weight, n (%)                  | 384 |                 |                   |                | <b>0.02</b> |
| Large increase ( $\geq 5\%$ )                 |     | 48 (12.5%)      | 45 (14.7%)        | 3 (3.9%)       |             |
| Moderate increase (0 to 4.9%)                 |     | 285 (74.2%)     | 225 (73.3%)       | 60 (77.9%)     |             |
| Decrease ( $<0\%$ )                           |     | 51 (13.3%)      | 37 (12.1%)        | 14 (18.2%)     |             |
| <b>Physical activity and sitting time</b>     |     |                 |                   |                |             |
| Change in physical activity, n (%)            | 420 |                 |                   |                | 0.42        |
| Increase                                      |     | 58 (13.8%)      | 49 (14.5%)        | 9 (11.1%)      |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 280 (66.7%)     | 221 (65.2%)       | 59 (72.8%)     |             |
| No change                                     |     | 82 (19.5%)      | 69 (20.4%)        | 13 (16.0%)     |             |
| Change in sitting time, n (%)                 | 414 |                 |                   |                | 0.84        |
| Increase                                      |     | 270 (65.2%)     | 220 (65.9%)       | 50 (62.5%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 21 (5.1%)       | 17 (5.1%)         | 4 (5.0%)       |             |
| No change                                     |     | 123 (29.7%)     | 97 (29.0%)        | 26 (32.5%)     |             |
| Sitting time, h/d                             | 383 | 7.3 (3.6)       | 7.3 (3.5)         | 7.3 (4.0)      | 0.87        |
| Screen time, h/d                              | 394 | 6.0 (3.3)       | 6.0 (3.2)         | 6.0 (3.7)      | 0.95        |
| <b>Diet quality and eating behavior</b>       |     |                 |                   |                |             |
| Change in diet quality, n (%)                 | 401 |                 |                   |                | 0.90        |
| Better quality                                |     | 55 (13.7%)      | 46 (14.1%)        | 9 (12.2%)      |             |
| Lower quality                                 |     | 120 (29.9%)     | 98 (30.0%)        | 22 (29.7%)     |             |
| No change                                     |     | 226 (56.4%)     | 183 (56.0%)       | 43 (58.1%)     |             |
| Change in snacking, n (%)                     | 417 |                 |                   |                | 0.99        |
| Increase                                      |     | 184 (44.1%)     | 148 (44.0%)       | 36 (44.4%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 30 (7.2%)       | 24 (7.1%)         | 6 (7.4%)       |             |
| No change                                     |     | 203 (48.7%)     | 164 (48.8%)       | 39 (48.1%)     |             |
| Change in cravings, n (%)                     | 417 |                 |                   |                | <b>0.02</b> |
| Increase                                      |     | 180 (43.2%)     | 157 (46.7%)       | 23 (28.4%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 31 (7.4%)       | 24 (7.1%)         | 7 (8.6%)       |             |
| No change                                     |     | 206 (49.4%)     | 155 (46.1%)       | 51 (63.0%)     |             |
| Change in loss of control episodes, n (%)     | 412 |                 |                   |                | 0.54        |
| Increase                                      |     | 127 (30.8%)     | 105 (31.5%)       | 22 (27.8%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 35 (8.5%)       | 26 (7.8%)         | 9 (11.4%)      |             |
| No change                                     |     | 250 (60.7%)     | 202 (60.7%)       | 48 (61.8%)     |             |
| Change in night-time feeding, n (%)           | 409 |                 |                   |                | 0.28        |
| Increase                                      |     | 98 (24.0%)      | 84 (25.6%)        | 14 (17.3%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 33 (8.1%)       | 25 (7.6%)         | 8 (9.9%)       |             |
| No change                                     |     | 278 (68.0%)     | 219 (66.8%)       | 59 (72.8%)     |             |
| Unfavorable change in eating behavior*, n (%) | 401 |                 |                   |                | 0.85        |
| Yes   |     | 255 (63.6%)     | 206 (64.0%)       | 49 (62.0%)     |             |
| No  |     | 146 (36.4%)     | 116 (36.0%)       | 30 (38.0%)     |             |
| <b>Alcohol and smoking consumption</b>        |     |                 |                   |                |             |
| Increased alcohol consumption, n (%)          | 416 | 42 (10.1%)      | 35 (10.4%)        | 7 (8.6%)       | 0.78        |
| Increased smoking, n (%)                      | 420 | 35 (8.3%)       | 29 (8.7%)         | 6 (7.4%)       | 0.88        |
| <b>Mental health indicators</b>               |     |                 |                   |                |             |
| Change in sleep duration, n (%)               | 417 |                 |                   |                | 0.06        |
| Increase                                      |     | 86 (20.6%)      | 77 (22.9%)        | 9 (11.1%)      |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 124 (29.7%)     | 98 (29.2%)        | 26 (32.1%)     |             |
| No change                                     |     | 207 (49.6%)     | 161 (47.9%)       | 46 (56.8%)     |             |
| Sleep duration, h/d                           | 389 | 6.8 (1.6)       | 6.9 (1.6)         | 6.7 (1.8)      | 0.37        |
| Change in fatigue, n (%)                      | 420 |                 |                   |                | 0.85        |
| Increase                                      |     | 189 (45.0%)     | 153 (45.1%)       | 36 (44.4%)     |             |
| Decrease                                      |     | 48 (11.4%)      | 40 (11.8%)        | 8 (9.9%)       |             |
| No change                                     |     | 183 (43.6%)     | 146 (43.1%)       | 37 (45.7%)     |             |

|                             |     |             |             |            |      |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|------------|------|
| GAD-7 score, n (%)          | 392 |             |             |            | 0.07 |
| Minimal                     |     | 216 (55.1%) | 168 (52.7%) | 48 (65.8%) |      |
| Mild                        |     | 89 (22.7%)  | 80 (25.1%)  | 9 (12.3%)  |      |
| Moderate                    |     | 56 (14.3%)  | 44 (13.8%)  | 12 (16.4%) |      |
| Severe                      |     | 31 (7.9%)   | 27 (8.5%)   | 4 (5.5%)   |      |
| PHQ-9 score, n (%)          | 386 |             |             |            | 0.20 |
| Minimal                     |     | 185 (47.9%) | 141 (45.3%) | 44 (58.7%) |      |
| Mild                        |     | 101 (26.2%) | 87 (28.0%)  | 14 (18.7%) |      |
| Moderate                    |     | 51 (13.2%)  | 42 (13.5%)  | 9 (12.0%)  |      |
| Moderately severe to severe |     | 49 (12.7%)  | 41 (13.2%)  | 8 (10.7%)  |      |

P-value from Student's *t*-test for continuous data and from  $\chi^2$  test for or Fisher exact test for categorical data.  
P-value from *t*-test. P-value from  $\chi^2$  test. P-value from.

\* Patients reporting at least one negative change among the following outcomes: snacking, cravings, loss of control episodes, night-time eating