



COALITION CONTRE
l'obésité morbide

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

The *Coalition against Morbid Obesity* supports the results of a major study published today in *The New England Journal of Medicine*

Montreal, August 23, 2007 - Josée Roy and Jennifer Schultz, cofounders of the *Coalition against Morbid Obesity*, applaud the results of an important study on bariatric surgery published today in *The New England Journal of Medicine* (<http://content.nejm.org/>). This study clearly demonstrates that bariatric surgery significantly reduces the mortality rate of morbidly obese people who undertake it. "Morbid obesity is a disease. Bariatric surgery is the only efficient treatment of morbid obesity. It is a matter of life and death. The results of this major scientific study will, I hope, contribute to eliminate the preconceived ideas against morbidly obese persons and bariatric surgery", says Mrs. Schultz. "This study effectively shows the beneficial impact of bariatric surgery on the health and survival of morbidly obese people. And let's not forget the substantial economic benefits for our healthcare system", adds Mrs. Roy. "The government must immediately allocate more resources to provide adequate treatment to the 200,000+ Quebecers suffering from morbid obesity. In Quebec, only 1,000 bariatric surgeries are being performed each year. It's far from enough!", concludes Mrs. Schultz.

Morbid obesity

Morbid obesity is the starting point for different types of diseases that are often fatal, such as arterial hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, or heart disease. An individual's obesity level can be evaluated by means of the body mass index (BMI), which is calculated by dividing the person's weight by his or her height squared (Kg/m^2). Morbid obesity corresponds to a BMI higher than or equal to 40, or higher than or equal to 35 if accompanied by comorbidities.

Bariatric surgery

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), bariatric surgery is considered to be the only effective treatment for morbid obesity. Bariatric surgery includes a series of techniques that are based on two intervention principles: gastric bypass (reduced volume) and intestinal malabsorption (derivation). In Québec in 2005, the Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS) tabled a report entitled "Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity – Update", which reviews all of the bariatric surgery techniques. The AETMIS recommended establishing an action plan in Québec to define the need for bariatric surgery and devise ways to respond to these.

About the Coalition against Morbid Obesity

Created in February 2007, the Coalition against Morbid Obesity is a non-profit, Québec-based organization that draws on the strength of association to increase awareness of the issue of

morbid obesity and to foster better access to bariatric surgery in Québec. Its signature, "Weight that kills", expresses the dramatic situation that is experienced by people who are suffering from morbid obesity. As its name indicates, this disease leads to a faster death for those who are afflicted. For more information, visit www.lepoidsquitue.com.

Photographs of Josée Roy and Jennifer Schultz are posted on:

http://www.lepoidsquitue.com/salledepresse_en.php

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