

Championing Best Health: A Primary Care Series on Pediatric Obesity | Pearls for Practice

Looking Beyond BMI: Assessing Pediatric Health with the EOSS-P Tool

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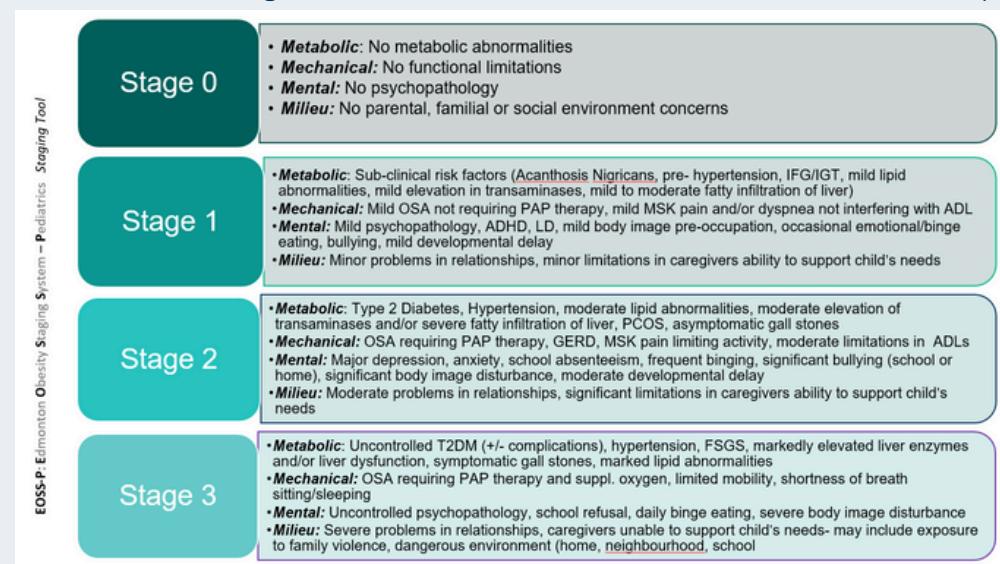
Key Messages:

- Obesity is a polygenic condition that runs strongly in families.
- 50-90% of our risk for obesity is genetically determined. This inherited genetic risk is exploited by socio-biologic factors throughout our lifetime and epigenetic changes can perpetuate this risk inter-generationally.
- Once weight is gained, it becomes biologically locked in. Weight loss and *especially sustained weight loss* is very difficult due to metabolic adaptation and strong neuroendocrine mechanisms that defend against this.
- We have traditionally used anthropometric measures to define obesity in pediatrics, specifically BMI% (greater than 95% using CDC growth curves; greater than 97% using WHO growth curves).
- BMI is a marker of body size and growth. The utility of BMI in assessing individual health risk is limited.
- Complete a comprehensive assessment using [WHO Growth Charts for Canada](#), [4Ms framework](#), [EOSS-P](#), and the [5As of Pediatric Weight Management](#)

Classification	CDC	WHO
Class I	95th to 120% of 95th%	Z- Score +2 to 3
Class II*	120 to 140% of 95th%	Z- Score +3 to 4
Class III*	Greater than 140% of 95th%	Z-Score greater than 4

The Edmonton Obesity Staging System for Pediatrics (EOSS-P)

- Adapted from the adult version of the EOSS, this tool was designed to allow clinicians to assess the impact of obesity on children and youth in a more personalized and comprehensive way. to assess obesity-related health risks and barriers to care.
- The EOSS-P goes beyond BMI by considering complications of obesity, functional impact, developmental and mental health needs, resources, and social supports
- It allows for the development of personalized and ideally feasible management plans, focused on health outcomes and takes into account patient and family values and preferences as well as the context in which they live.
- Can be used in routine clinical visits or through information gathered from existing medical/social history
- The EOSS-P can guide risk discussions, clinical decisions, and treatment planning



[Click here to access the free EOSS-P Tool](#)

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Pearls for Practice

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Etiology of Pediatric Obesity

ASSESS				
Endocrine	Monogenic	Genetic Syndrome	CNS/ hypothalamic damage	Polygenic*
Low growth velocity	Obesity onset before 6 months of age	Dysmorphic features	Hypo-thalamic obesity	Normal or increased growth velocity
Hypothyroidism	Increased appetite	Neurocognitive delay	Increased appetite	Highly heritable
Growth Hormone Deficiency	MC4R defect/ Leptin deficiency	Prader Willi Syndrome	Decreased energy expenditure	Intrauterine exposures
Cushing's Syndrome		Bardet Biedl Syndrome	Hypo-pituitarism	
		Alstrom		

4Ms of Pediatric Obesity

The pediatric staging system is based on simple clinical assessments across four main domains of health; **Metabolic**, **Mechanical**, **Mental** health, and **Milieu** (social). Unique to the pediatric staging system is an assessment of family and social milieu factors - that identifies contextual factors related to caregiver and family functioning.

Clinicians can take their time in completing these assessments over multiple visits.

The 4 M's of Pediatric Obesity

Mental	Mechanical	Metabolic	Milieu
Anxiety Depression Body image ADHD Learning disorder Sleep disorder Eating disorder Trauma	Sleep apnea MSK pain Reflux disease Stress incontinence Encopresis Intertrigo	IGT/T2DM Dyslipidemia Hypertension Fatty liver Gallstones PCOS Medication Genetics	Parent health/disability Family stressors Family income Bullying/Stigma School attendance School support Neighbourhood safety Medical insurance Accessible facilities Food Environment Opportunities for physical activity

Body Image

- Strong psychological correlate of disordered eating and obesity
 - ASK:** How do you feel about your health; body; weight?
 - Do you feel like your weight interferes with anything (i.e. confidence)?
 - Does anyone make comments about your body or your weight?
 - Do you feel like you spend a lot of time and energy thinking about nutrition or your body?
- Psychoeducation on Health at Every Size (HAES)
- Body image concerns can present a significant barrier to weight management and contribute to progression of obesity over time

Assessing Disordered Eating

- Binge Eating Disorder (BED)**
 - ASK:** Do you ever lose control of your eating?
 - Eating more rapidly than normal; uncomfortably full; eating large amounts when not hungry
 - Eating alone because of embarrassment
 - Feeling disgusted, depressed or guilty after overeating
 - Is there a pattern to binges? Frequency 2x/wk in 6 months to meet criteria for BED
- Emotional Eating:** Using food to cope with stress, boredom, anxiety, depression. Normalize
 - ASK:** Do you ever feel like your eating changes based on how you are feeling?
 - Sometimes people eat differently because they are upset or bored or down.
 - Does this ever happen to you?
- NOTE:** You may need to ask these questions more than once (at different visits) - there is a lot of SHAME around binging and emotional eating.