Reviewer's report

Title: Body shape expectations and self-ideal body shape discrepancy in women seeking bariatric surgery: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2014

Reviewer: Mary A Forhan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Minor Essential Revisions:

Overall the manuscript was very well written and flowed nicely. These suggestions are to help with clarification.

1. P. 3 line 78 change "The psychosocial pressures of prejudice..." to "The psychosocial pressures resulting from prejudice...".

2. This paper is about weight bias and part of reducing weight bias is in the language researchers use in their reports. Many journals require the use of "person-first" language that is non-stigmatizing and puts the person first and the health condition second. Therefore it is recommended that any statements that include the phrase "obese persons" or "obese individuals" or "obese patients" be changed to "persons with obesity" or "Individuals with obesity" or "patients with obesity". This also reinforces that obesity is a health condition and not a personal descriptor.

3. P.3 line 92. The authors make the following statement "...however many other psychosocial, health and quality of life benefits are observed postoperatively". Please provide examples of specific benefits. Eg. Such benefits include.....

4. The second last paragraph of the introduction/background section (p. 4), specifically the content from line 121-124 does not provide a strong rationale for the study. It leaves the reader wondering why the study was conducted. I have not doubt there is a stronger rationale however it needs to be articulated more clearly for those not familiar with this topic and the need to explore further.

5. P.4 line 131. The methods section starts off by letting the reader know that female candidates were recruited. No rationale provided in the background or methods as to why the study was limited to females. Please provide a rationale for only including females.

6. P. 5 line 150-151. Last sentence in this section is better placed as a sentence prior to line 184 on P. 6.

7. Last sentence on P5 lines 159-161. Not sure if this sentence is needed. Does not appear relevant.
8. P5 line 162. Please provide a rationale as to why the SFRS was used with the GRWQ.

9. P. 6 lines 175-177. Has the equation used for %EWL used in this study been used in other studies. If so, please state or clarify why this equation was used.

10. P.6 lines 190-192. Last sentence in this section seems out of place. It may be better placed in the results section.

11. P. 7 Results section. It occurred to me while reading the results that there are a number of health conditions that could influence body image. This is not discussed at any point in this paper. Was information about co-exisitng health conditions (comorbidities) such as musculoskeletal disorders, trauma's, skin disorders etc (conditions that can alter body image and body satisfaction) collected. If not, how did researchers control for other factors that could impact body image and ideal body shape? If this is not answerable it should be acknowledged as a limitation of the study.

12. P.9 line 265-266 sentence starting with "The self-ideal body shape..." would be better placed on P. 9 line 258 prior to the sentence starting with "High self-ideal body shape...".

13. P. 9 line 269. Its not clear what relevance the Song and colleagues article on body contouring is relevant to pre-bariatric surgery patients.

14. P. 9 line 277. Statement starting with "By understanding their current body size..." I don't think that this is the most important connection. There are studies that show the prevalence of underestimating BMI among populations with obesity and therefore this population is no different.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.