tors of obesity in 272 boys and 242 girls who were aged 3 to 5 years.

METHODS: Bioelectrical impedance analysis was used to calculate percentage fat mass (%FM) and FMI (fat mass/stature^2). Boys and girls were considered obese when %FM was ≥ 25 and ≥ 30, respectively. Cutoffs of BMI (weight/stature^2) and FMI were tested at 90th, 95th, and 97th percentiles.

RESULTS: There were strong, significant correlations between BMI or FMI and %FM, but there was no significant correlation between BMI or FMI and stature; therefore, both BMI and FMI are useful indexes to assess fatness and obesity. With the use of %FM as the criterion for obesity, however, the highest prevalence of obesity was found at the 90th percentile for both genders. BMI and FMI had high specificities and lower but variable sensitivities. FMI is associated with a level of sensitivity that is somewhat higher than that of BMI. Almost all children who were not obese were classified correctly, whereas many obese children were not correctly identified.

CONCLUSIONS: FMI is a specific indicator of childhood obesity, and at 90th percentile, it has moderately high sensitivity. BMI should be used with caution as an indicator of childhood obesity.

COMPARISON OF INTERNATIONAL OBESITY TASKFORCE CUTOFFS, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION GROWTH CHARTS, AND BODY MASS INDEX *Z*-SCORE VALUES IN THE PREVALENCE OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY: THE GREEK OBESITY AND LIFESTYLE STUDY

Submitted by Nikolaos Mantzouranis
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OBJECTIVE: Few epidemiologic studies have compared classification methods of childhood obesity. The aim of the Greek Obesity and Lifestyle Study (GOALS) was to assess the prevalence of childhood obesity by comparing 3 classification methods.

METHODS: The GOALS was conducted on a representative sample of 2056 students (1148 boys and 908 girls), aged to 13 years. Body mass and height were measured, and the BMI (kg/m^2) was calculated. The comparisons of obesity prevalence were based on International Obesity Taskforce (IOTF) cutoffs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) growth charts and BMI-for-age *z* scores (overweight ≥1 SD, obese ≥2 SD).

RESULTS: The higher prevalence of obesity (including overweight) in GOALS was found by using the CDC growth charts (37.6%), whereas the obesity prevalence classified according to the IOTF cutoffs was recorded 1% lower (36.6%). In relation to CDC and IOTF classifications, significant lower prevalence was reported when obesity was estimated as BMI-for-age *z* scores (15.2%). Adjusted by gender, the Analysis of variance results showed that the obesity prevalence was significantly higher in boys in both CDC and IOTF classifications compared with BMI-for-age *z* scores.

CONCLUSIONS: The comparison among studies in Greece shows that the prevalence of childhood obesity in GOALS, based on both IOTF and CDC classifications, is the highest ever recorded in Greece and almost similar with the obesity prevalence reported in US teenagers. The lower obesity prevalence recorded in GOALS using the BMI-for-age *z* scores, compared with IOTF and CDC classifications, did not appropriately specify childhood obesity and cannot be used for public health applications.

ASSOCIATION OF COMORBIDITY WITH OBESITY IN MEXICAN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

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INTRODUCTION: Obesity is a chronic and recurrent inflammatory disease, associated with high risk to health. It is a world public health problem that affects children and adolescents. It is present in rich and poor countries. Type 2 diabetes, systemic arterial hypertension, blood lipid disorders, and cardiovascular disease together compose the metabolic syndrome (BMI > 95th percentile, weight circumference ≥ 85th percentile, serum glucose ≥ 100 mg/dL, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ≤ 40 mg/dL, serum triglycerides ≥ 110 mg/dL); orthopedic lesions and psychosocial problems (marginalization and depression) are present early in life in obese individuals.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this study was to describe the frequency of comorbidity in a cohort of 185 obese Mexican children and adolescents.

METHODS: A total of 185 obese Mexican children and adolescents were included in the study. The following parameters were measured: BMI, serum lipid profile, serum glucose, alanine aminotransferase, aspartate aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, and serum uric acid. Complete physical examinations were performed, including blood pressure measurements.

RESULTS: BMI was at the 95th percentile in 97% of cases; 75% had ≥1 clinical indicator of comorbidity associated with obesity. Skin lesions (nigricans acanthosis; folliculitis; and grooves in hip, abdomen, and upper and lower extremities), serum lipid disorders (high level of

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