

“Childhood obesity is a national epidemic. All children with severe obesity have the right to access high-quality bariatric surgery, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.”

– Kanika Bowen-Jallow, M.D., FACS, FAAP

Location

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Meet our team

Kanika Bowen-Jallow, M.D., FACS, FAAP
Medical Director
Bariatric Surgery Program

Lily Han, M.D.
Board certified obesity medicine specialist



Choosing a healthier future

Bariatric surgery for adolescents



Bariatric surgery is a serious choice for anyone – and even more so when it involves an adolescent. However, bariatric surgery may be the appropriate choice for kids who need to obtain a healthy weight and/or reverse serious life-threatening medical conditions.

What's our approach?

One of our core values at Cook Children's is collaboration. Our bariatric surgery team practices this by encouraging a partnership among the patient, family and health care providers to achieve the child's weight loss goals. This team of experts includes a board certified obesity medicine pediatrician, registered dietitian, advanced practice provider, psychologist and a pediatric surgeon.

We educate and empower our patients as they prepare for weight loss surgery. That way, they can have long-lasting results. We involve specialists from Gastroenterology, Pulmonology, Cardiology, Endocrinology and Child Life as needed.

How does it work?

To start, patients in the Cook Children's Bariatric Program visit our office for appointments over a span of six months. During this time, our team reviews each patient's needs and determines when they are psychologically and physiologically ready to proceed with surgery. After surgery, we will follow the patients for four years with comprehensive care.

Patients will:

- Visit with their dietitian and advanced practice provider to identify and track lifestyle habits at each appointment.
- Keep a journal to track their meals, snacks, beverages and portion sizes.
- Complete any necessary labs and/or radiologic workups.
- Meet with a psychologist prior to bariatric surgery.
- Have open communication with their health care team to discuss concerns between appointments and after surgery.
- Participate with their family in nutrition classes so everyone in the home can learn healthier habits.

Who qualifies?

Patients must meet the minimum criteria:

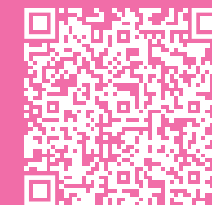
- Be 13-18 years of age.
- A body mass index (BMI) of 40 or greater.
- A BMI of 35 with one or more obesity-related comorbidities. This includes, but not limited to:
 - Prediabetes
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Obstructive sleep apnea
 - Hypertension
 - Fatty liver disease
 - Polycystic ovarian syndrome
 - Dyslipidemia
 - Pseudo tumor cerebri

Recent studies show that bariatric surgery can help reverse up to 90% of hypertension and diabetes.

About 99% of our bariatric procedures are gastric sleeves.

Visit our paperless portal to access the referral platform at epiccarelink.cookchildrens.org

To refer a patient on the Epic portal, search 'bariatric.'



Refer a patient
Print or complete the digital referral form.