

Overview of Reimbursement Criteria for Bariatric Surgery in 23 Countries

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INTRODUCTION

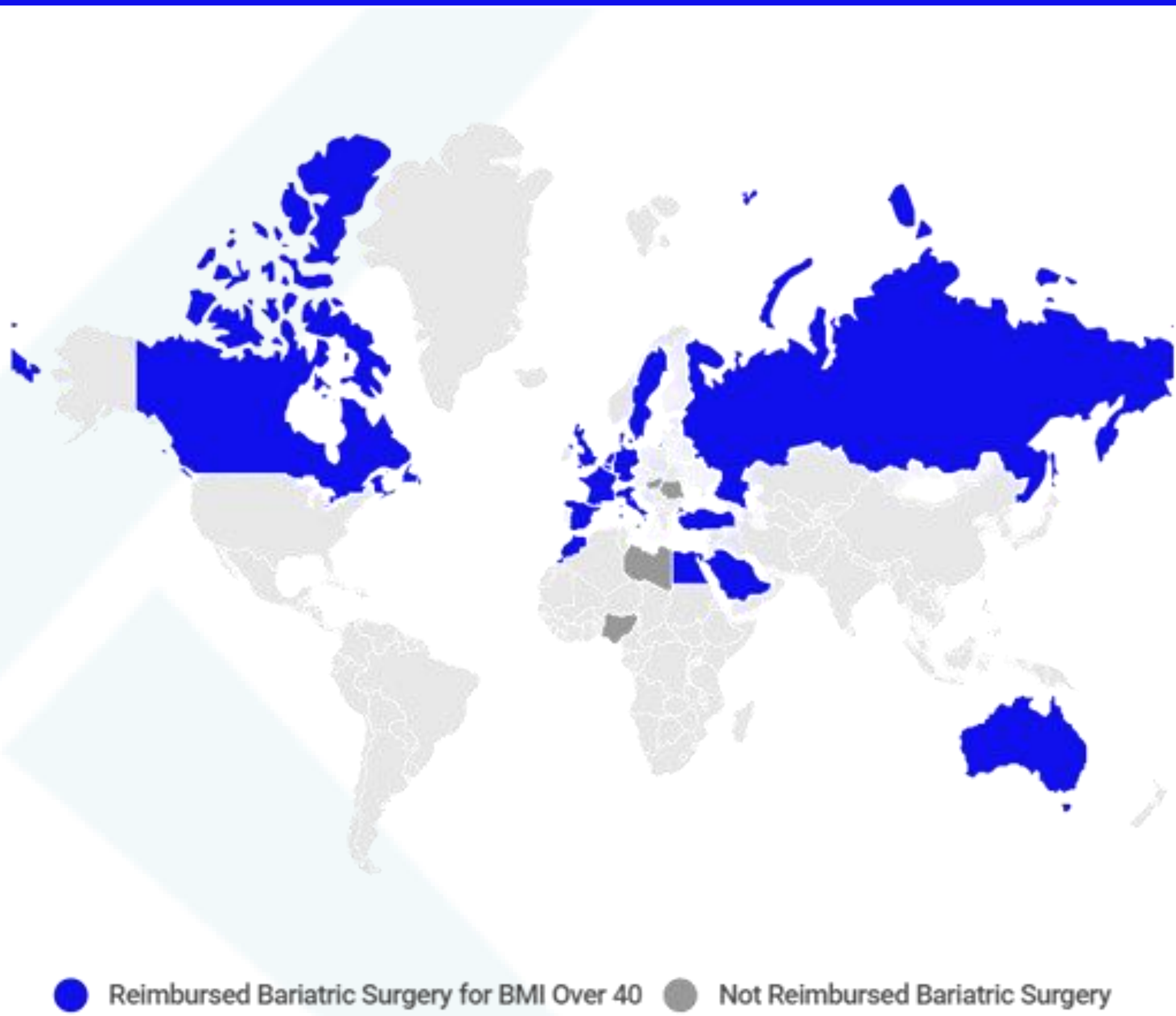
- ✗ The underlying premise for employing bariatric surgery to achieve substantial weight reduction rests on the established understanding that extreme obesity is a pathological condition intertwined with numerous detrimental health implications. These adverse health impacts can be ameliorated or reversed through efficacious weight reduction, particularly in individuals who have not achieved lasting weight loss through non-surgical interventions.¹
- ✗ This study is devoted to an examination of the reimbursement policies pertaining to bariatric surgery in designated nations, providing insight into the financial aspects and accessibility of this surgical intervention within diverse healthcare systems.

METHOD

- ✗ The methodology employed encompassed an exhaustive review of the reimbursement criteria for bariatric surgery across 23 selected nations. A thorough search of pertinent databases and official government healthcare websites was conducted to ascertain the existing reimbursement policies and guidelines in each nation.
- ✗ Comparative analysis of the data from each country facilitated the identification of similarities and discrepancies in the reimbursement criteria.
- ✗ The insights gleaned from this investigation shed light on the diverse and variable nature of reimbursement criteria for bariatric surgery internationally, highlighting the necessity for further examination and potential harmonization of these policies to enhance global healthcare equality and accessibility.

RESULTS

- ✗ Empirical evidence highlights discernible global disparities in the reimbursement policies for bariatric surgery, particularly contingent upon the individual's Body Mass Index (BMI).
- ✗ In countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom, reimbursement for bariatric surgery is attainable for individuals boasting a BMI exceeding 40. This reflects an acknowledgment of the surgery's pivotal role in mitigating the adverse health effects correlated with severe obesity within these nations, underscoring a commitment to facilitating access to this life-enhancing medical intervention.
- ✗ Contrastingly, countries such as Hungary, Nigeria, Libya, and Romania starkly abstain from providing reimbursement for bariatric surgery procedures.
- ✗ The manifest global heterogeneity in bariatric surgery reimbursement policies necessitates comprehensive further exploration, aimed at harmonizing global approaches to enhance equitable access to this crucial surgical procedure, thereby augmenting global health outcomes in the realm of obesity management.



CONCLUSIONS

- ✗ The findings from our in-depth examination elucidate substantial disparities in the reimbursement criteria for bariatric surgery internationally. A multitude of countries, including but not limited to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom, offer reimbursement for bariatric surgery for individuals possessing a BMI exceeding 40. Contrarily, nations such as Hungary, Nigeria, Libya, and Romania do not extend such financial healthcare support. This pronounced global inconsistency underscores the pressing necessity for a more standardized approach towards the reimbursement criteria for bariatric surgery. It is imperative to recognize the established advantages of bariatric surgery in the effective treatment of severe obesity and concomitant health conditions, reinforcing the call for universal accessibility to such medical interventions.
- ✗ As the variation in international reimbursement policies may inadvertently affect the accessibility and eventual outcomes of bariatric surgery, it is pivotal for future investigative efforts to delve into the exploration of specific conditions, stipulations, and requirements governing these reimbursements. Additionally, analyzing the consequent impact of such diverse policies on the access to and resultant outcomes of bariatric surgery will provide a more holistic, multifaceted insight, potentially guiding the formulation of more equitable and health-favorable global reimbursement frameworks.

REFERENCES

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Abbreviations: BMI: Body Mass Index

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