Liver Transplantation and Bariatric Surgery
Best Approach

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INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of obesity has increased dramatically in the United States, with an overwhelming impact on health and health care. Obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) equal to or greater than 30 kg/m$^2$. In 2016, it is estimated that the prevalence of obesity in the United States was 34.7 as compared with 15% in 1987. The obesity epidemic has gradually expanded from an adult-onset disorder to affecting many children. From 2011 to 2012, it is estimated that 32% of children were overweight or obese at 2 years of age in the United States. This high prevalence will likely lay the foundation for future increases in rates of obesity-related comorbidities, such as diabetes, heart disease, and liver disease, including end-stage liver disease (ESLD).

Liver transplant (LT) has long been the gold standard for the treatment of ESLD, acute liver failure, and primary hepatic malignancy. Transplantation not only extends survival...