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Objective: Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) occurs across the weight spectrum, however research addressing the coexistence of ARFID with overweight/obesity (OV/OB) is lacking. We aimed to establish co-occurrence of OV/OB and ARFID and to characterize divergent neurobiological features of ARFID by weight.

Method: Youth with full/subthreshold ARFID (11 with healthy weight [HW], 12 with OV/OB) underwent fasting brain fMRI scan while viewing food/non-food images (M age = 16.92 years, 65% female, 87% white). We compared groups on BOLD response to high-calorie foods (HCF) (vs. objects) in food cue processing regions of interest. Following fMRI scanning, we evaluated subjective hunger pre- vs. post-meal. We used a mediation model to explore the association between BMI, brain activation and hunger.

Results: Participants with ARFID and OV/OB demonstrated significant hyperactivation in response to HCF (vs. objects) in the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) and anterior insula compared with HW subjects with ARFID. Mediation analysis yielded a significant indirect effect of group (HW vs. OV/OB) on hunger via OFC activation (effect=18.39, SE=11.27, 95% CI [-45.09, -3.00]), suggesting that OFC activation mediates differences in hunger between ARFID participants with HW and OV/OB.

Conclusions: Compared to youth with ARFID and HW, those with OV/OB demonstrate hyperactivation of brain areas critical for reward value of food cues. Postprandial changes in subjective hunger depend on BMI and are mediated by OFC activation to food cues. Whether these neurobiological differences contribute to selective hyperphagia in ARFID presenting with OV/OB and represent potential treatment targets is an important area for future investigation.

Adipose Tissue, Appetite, and Obesity INTEGRATED PHYSIOLOGY OF OBESITY AND METABOLIC DISEASE

No Differences in Metabolic Parameters Between Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass and Sleeve Gastrectomy, Regardless of Achieved Weight Loss

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Adipose Tissue, Appetite, and Obesity INTEGRATED PHYSIOLOGY OF OBESITY AND METABOLIC DISEASE

Obesity, Body Fat Distribution, and Circulating Glutamate Concentrations, A BI-Directional Mendelian Randomization Study

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Background: Various observational studies have reported that circulating levels of the amino acid glutamate was significantly associated with central fat accumulation in men and women. This is the case in the Framingham Heart Study Generation 3 for waist circumference, in the TwinsUK cohort for trunk fat and in a cohort of 1449 Japanese for visceral adipose tissue area measured by computed tomography. However, whether the association between