



Letter to the Editor

Socioeconomic status and childhood metabolic syndrome

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To the Editor,

Iguacel et al. investigated the association between socioeconomic disadvantages and metabolic syndrome (MetS) in children [1]. Standardized multiple regression coefficients of several socioeconomic disadvantages were significantly increased. I have two comments with special reference to obesity.

First, Patel et al. examined the association between parental socioeconomic position (SEP) and early-life offspring body mass index (BMI) in children [2]. Higher SEP was associated with greater BMI trajectories in both sexes. In contrast, Oddo and Jones-Smith reported that poverty to family income ratio (PIR) and its increase were significantly associated with a decrease in BMI only among girls [3]. Further studies should be conducted to specify sex differences.

Second, Andrea et al. conducted a systematic review concerning the effect of early life growth on obesity during later life stages by considering race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status (SES) [4]. They recognized a

positive association in racial/ethnic minority populations. They established that SES was not directly associated with child obesity; however, it might be a modifier. In contrast, Rogers et al. reported that there was no significant relationship between ethnicity and childhood obesity, when controlling for family income [5]. They speculated that low SES played a more significant role in the childhood obesity epidemic than race/ethnicity. Obesity is a fundamental basis of MetS, and several indicators on SES should be selected to verify the association.

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