

Nearly 2/3 of all Americans are overweight or obese. Bariatric surgery offers a viable long-term solution for those whose weight puts them at risk for chronic debilitating, and life-threatening medical problems. Psychologists have been recognized as part of the multidisciplinary team to determine patients' appropriateness for bariatric surgery. The need for psychological evaluations for prospective bariatric surgeries was recognized by the National Institutes of Health in 1991. The purpose of the psychological evaluation for potential surgery patients is to identify certain risk factors and to make recommendations to the patient and the surgeon that lead to good outcomes for the patient.

During this evaluation you will meet with Dr. Swartout so she can help to inform you about how your life will change after surgery, including nutritional need and mood. This meeting will also include a clinical interview during which Dr. Swartout will ask you questions so she can get to know you and therefore be able to write a report for your surgeon that will reflect your individual needs. You will also take a personality test and a behavioral medicine test. You should plan to spend about three hours with Dr. Swartout for this evaluation.

If you plan to use health insurance, please call them prior to your appointment to find out your benefits and if they will cover this evaluation, so you can be informed about the financial aspects of this evaluation. Dr. Swartout is happy to discuss fees also.