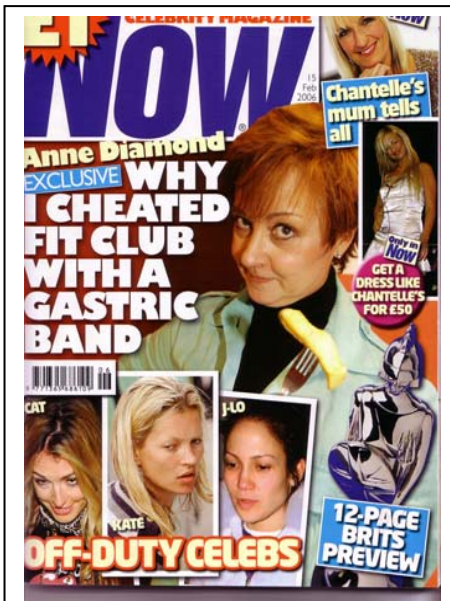


Obesity surgery refers to the surgical reduction of stomach size and / or intestinal length in order to reduce the amount of food the body can consume and absorb. This research explores the ways in which obesity surgery is conceptualised and experienced by doctors and their patients, and how it is represented in policy debates and the media.



Research methods:

- Interviews
- Participation observation (in a surgical clinic)
- Discourse / narrative analysis (published accounts, media, policy)

Key Findings/Ideas

- Obesity surgery is now a key element in the “war on obesity” generating new imperatives for some people to engage with it.
- Obesity surgery is always gendered.
- Obesity surgery produces new identities and collectivities.
- The fat body remains a moral as much as a medical issue.
- Obesity surgery is a technology of both hope (of future bodily transformation) and despair (at the failure of other weight loss measures).
- Those identifying as candidates for surgery have to negotiate both its risks and possibilities.
- The proliferation of obesity surgery reflects the failure of medical science to understand the causes of obesity.
- Obesity surgery is increasingly being incorporated into consumer culture.

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