

# Life-changing surgery? Fat chance of that

ANOTHER health authority is using the body mass index to limit operations (Mail). What they don't tell anyone is that they are condemning people to a life of pain with no chance of an operation.

Ten years ago my wife was told by a consultant that she needed spinal fusion to cure her back pain — but they wouldn't operate unless she lost three stones.

She had difficulty walking and this built up her muscles, so the diets she was on resulted in her weight increasing because muscle is heavier than fat.

Nobody could understand why her weight was not going down, but all they did was prescribe stronger painkillers. The result of these was increased lethargy.

Luckily, we read an article in the Mail about Taj Medical Group arranging operations in India.

We have just returned from there where my wife had successful back surgery. They did tests to ensure she was fit to undergo the operation, but they could not understand the use of BMI as a filter in the UK.

Recently, the Mail published the height and weight of the English and Australian rugby teams' front-row forwards — and only one player had a body mass index lower than 30, the technical level of obesity.

I wonder if they know that if they're injured in the UK, they might not be operated on?

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Outraged: Roger Dollery says his wife Averill was denied an operation

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