Obese women may never escape stigma

Obese women may never escape the stigma of obesity even after they have lost weight, according to researchers.

The study by the University of Hawaii, the University of Manchester, and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia examined whether anti-fat prejudice against women persisted even after they had lost significant weight and were now thin. The researchers asked young men and women to read vignettes describing a woman who had either lost 70 pounds or had remained weight stable, and who was either currently obese or currently thin. Participants were then asked their opinions about this woman on a number of attributes.

The team found that participants in the study - published in the journal Obesity - expressed greater bias against obese people after reading about women who had lost weight than after reading about women who had remained weight stable, regardless of whether the weight-stable woman was thin or obese.

“We were surprised to find that currently thin women were viewed differently depending on their weight history,” said Dr Janet Latner, study lead at the University of Hawaii.

“Those who had been obese in the past were perceived as less attractive than those who had always been thin, despite having identical height and weight.”

One of the more disturbing findings from the study, the researchers said, was that negative attitudes towards obese people increase when participants are told that body weight is easily controllable.

Co-author, Dr Kerry O’Brien, from the University of Manchester’s School of Psychological Sciences, said: “The message we often hear from society is that weight is highly controllable, but the best science in the obesity field at the moment suggests that one’s physiology and genetics, as well as the food environment, are the really big players in one’s weight status and weight loss.”

Weight status actually appears rather uncontrollable, regardless of one’s will-power, knowledge and dedication. Yet many people who are perceived as “fat” are struggling in vain to lose weight in order to escape this painful social stigma. We need to rethink our approaches to, and views of, weight and obesity.”

Dental Cafe 15

Unusual uses for breast milk

UNIVERSITY neonatologist explains the power of ‘liquid gold’

American’s spend nearly $2 billion just on flowers each Mother’s Day, and for good reason – one of the best gifts moms can give their kids can not only make them healthier, but it can help their short term but long term health.

One Florida neonatologist is breaking down the unusual and uncommon uses for one of mom’s greatest gifts.

“It is liquid gold,” says Sandra Sullivan, M.D., a neonatologist at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

And they call it that for a reason! True or false: breast milk can treat ear, and eye infections like pink-eye? The answer is true.

“Fresh milk has white blood cells in it which fight infection and they go around and chop up bacteria,” explains Sullivan.

A few drops in the eye or ear will work wonders in clearing up infections without the harmful side effects of antibiotics.

Next, breast milk can heal diaper rash! This is also true. It works as well as any cream on the market without risk of allergic reaction. Rub in a few drops and allow it to air dry before putting a diaper back on.

Finally can it treat skin wounds, bites, and scrapes? Yes, it’s true!

“It’s really a remarkable thing I have to say, I put breast milk on my daughter’s skin wounds,” says Sullivan.

A few drops before bandaging can prevent infection and speed the healing process. It’s solid advice for your liquid gold.

Research shows people of all ages can benefit from the healing properties of breast milk. Burn victims can use breast milk to help heal and protect their skin.

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