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**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND  
ETIOPATHOGENESIS OBESITY IN CHILDREN AND  
ADOLESCENTS**

**Abstract:** The prevalence of obesity increased in all age and ethnic groups dramatically. In Serbia, 54% of people are with excess weight – 36.7% are overweight, 17.3% are obese. The prevalence of obesity among Serbian children are estimated about 19%. Maintenance of body weight depend on complex interaction between central nervous system and numerous organs on periphery which provides energy metabolism. The hormones of gastrointestinal tract (cholecystokinin, glucagon like peptide 1) and adiposity tissue (lep tin) are in communication with orexigene and anorexigene centers in hypothalamus. Obesity could be consequence of gene mutations (leptin, melanocortin) and increasing influence of environment factors: sedentary life styles and excessive caloric consumption.