

Passage 2

In the past, doctors have always recommended a combination of diet and exercise to combat obesity. With the increase in the number of people who are overweight, however, this solution is increasingly being seen to be ineffective.

Because they see obesity as an illness, these authorities claim that treatment should involve not only diet and exercise but drugs as well. What they have in mind is not just a short course of medication to produce small degrees of weight loss. They want to prescribe long-term, perhaps lifetime, drug therapies, just as they might for high blood pressure or diabetes. Obesity's victims, these doctors hope, will not only be able to lose weight, but will also keep that weight off forever.

Not everyone in the medical community is satisfied with the new therapies. Conservatives are seriously worried that the new drugs are, in fact, merely placebos or worse, are actually detrimental to patients' health. Their concerns are understandable. A few decades ago patients using amphetamines became slimmer, but suffered from tension and irritability, higher pulse rates, and sleepless nights, side effects that may have outweighed the medical benefits of lower body weight. Conservatives also point out that risky as amphetamines were, they were generally prescribed only for temporary use. Advocates of new drug treatments leave open the possibility that the medications will be prescribed for a lifetime.

141 . Conservatives think new therapies

- a. may increase the mortality rate
- b. should undergo more refinements
- c. can simply have psychological benefits
- d. are less effective than diet and exercise

142 .The use of new therapies is opposed to because of their

- a. short-term effects
- b. complications
- c. ineffectiveness
- d. temporary use

143 .Regarding the use of drugs for weight loss,

- a. there is controversy among authorities
- b. conservatives advocate the prolonged use of them
- c. most doctors prefer them with diet and exercise
- d. most officials have come to an agreement on their use

144 .Diabetes and high blood pressure are compared with obesity because these disorders

- a. are due to obesity
- b. need life-long use of drugs
- c. are as prevalent as obesity
- d. require the same treatment as obesity

145 .Regarding the information given, we conclude that

- a. obesity will be overcome in near future
- b. the new therapies will be adopted by most physicians
- c. safer ways are required to lose weight
- d. obesity will be the most common disorder worldwide