BARIATRIC SURGERY EXPERIENCE OF 1768 CASES AS PART OF A GENERAL SURGICAL PRACTICE: ARE OUTCOMES AS GOOD?

AUTHORS: A. M. GONZALEZ, J.R. RABAZA, J. VERDEJA, A. SARASUA, and A. WELLHAM

South Miami Hospital Weight Loss Surgical Program

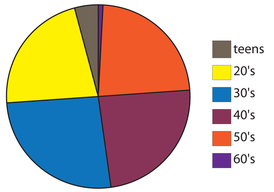
Background

Bariatric surgery has grown in the past few years to become a specialty in itself. Bariatric surgery was once a component of the average general surgical practice. With the development of the specialty of Bariatric surgery, more bariatric surgery programs are performed by surgeons practicing bariatric surgery only. We have performed bariatric surgery as a portion of our general surgical practice with excellent outcomes.

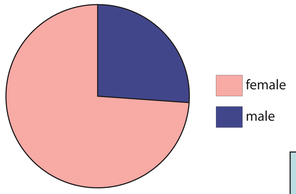
Mothods

We reviewed the experience of bariatric surgery performed by 4 surgeons in three different hospitals over 9 years (1999-2007). We reported the type of operation, gender, ages, morbidities, mortality, length of stay and BMIs.

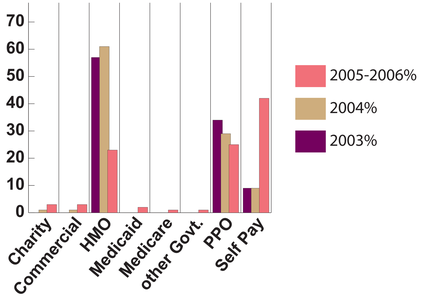
AGE DISTRIBUTION



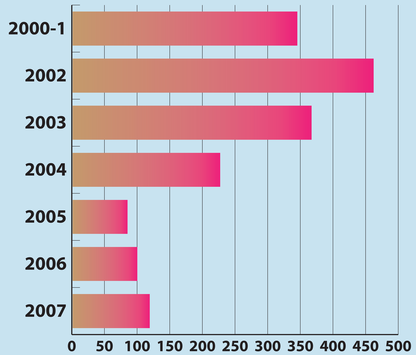
GENDER



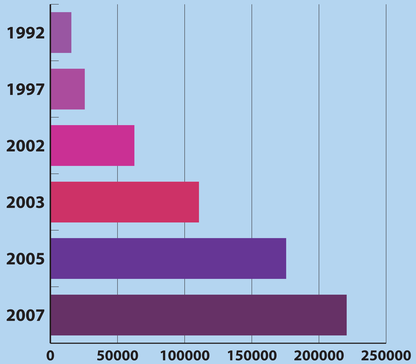
PAYMENT FORM



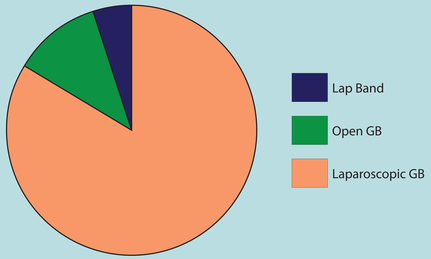
South Miami Hospital Numbers



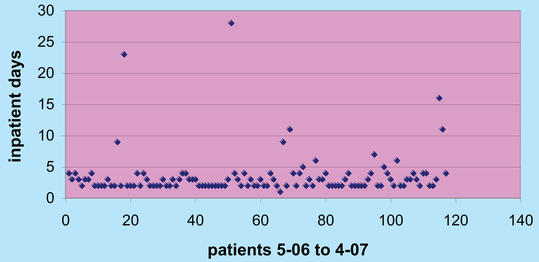
National Numbers



Type of Bariatric Surgery



Gastric Bypass Length of Stay

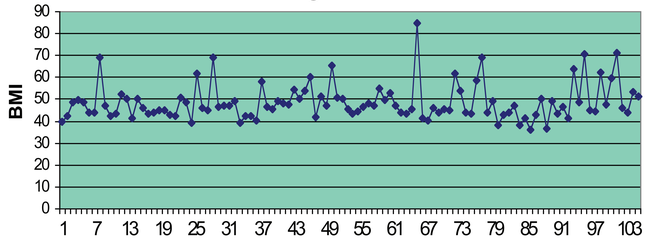


Results

1768 surgeries were performed from 1999-2007 by 4 surgeons. Gastric bypasses were 95% and lap band accounted for 5%. Age range was 17-67. Age distribution is noted in Figure 1. Three quarters were female. Payment type noted in Figure 2. BMI range from 36 to 84 (mean 48). Length of stay began at 3.6 days and decreased to 2.3 days in the past year. Morbidities were as follows: Respiratory 1.3%, Stricture 5.4%, Bleeding 0.7%, DVT 0.6%, Pulmonary Embolism 0.4%, Wound Infection 2.2%, and Leak 1.0%. Mortality 0.6%.

GASTRIC BYPASS CASES BMI

Low 36 / High 84 / Mean 48



Conclusion

Bariatric surgery has become a specialized field of surgery for the treatment of morbid obesity. Bariatric surgery began as a portion of a general surgical practice, but has transitioned into a field practiced exclusively by many surgeons. We demonstrated in our large experience of 1768 cases over 9 years that our morbidity, length of stay and mortality are comparable to national norms. General surgeons can still practice bariatric surgery as part of a general surgical practice.