

M5.4

Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in Hong Kong

14:30 Room 423 &amp; 424

**Quality Assurance – Credentialing for Safe Metabolic Surgery**

Ng E

*Department of Surgery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Obesity is now an endemic condition in many parts of the world. Its associated metabolic complications such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension and dyslipidemia can pose tremendous burden to the healthcare system. Lifestyle modification and medications are the usual measures to deal with these chronic illnesses, but a considerable proportion of patients need more aggressive interventions, such as bariatric/metabolic surgery, to achieve more sustainable control.

There is an increasing trend in the need of bariatric surgical service in Hospital Authority (HA) hospitals. These operations are technically challenging because of the patients' body appeal. Morbidities can be difficult to diagnose and manage, and some may end up as mortality. The resulting medico-legal litigation can be detrimental to both professionals and institutes. Based on experience in the West, accreditation and credentialing are proven effective approaches to reducing death and complications of bariatric procedures.

As a core feature of quality in surgery, accreditation must address three aspects: structure, processes, and outcomes. In the US, accredited centres must report their outcomes to a centralised database. They also need to meet core standard requirements depending on the level of the centre. Low-acuity centres must perform a minimum of 25 procedures every year in order to be accredited to perform bariatric surgery. Revisional procedures or high-risk patients are reserved for comprehensive centres, which need to perform a minimum of 50 cases annually to be accredited. Apart from case volume, there are other standards for accreditation: commitment to quality care, 24/7 critical care support, appropriate equipment and instruments, data collection, and continuous quality improvement process. Credentialing of individual surgeon should also be a key component in accreditation.

It is a high time for HA to review its stance in the development of bariatric/metabolic surgical services. A structured and well-defined accreditation programme is highly recommended. It is of mutual benefit with enhanced patient safety and lower risk of medico-legal litigation.