

Economic evaluation of bariatric surgery

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Purpose: Economic evaluation of bariatric surgery **Methods:** 31 bariatric surgery patients of Yotsuya Medical Cube, who had follow-up appointments after May 2008, were surveyed. The surveys included questions pertaining to their expenditures before and after their surgeries. **Results:** The average medical expenditure for preoperative patients is 12,597 yen per month. There were seven patients who reported to have no medical expenditures before their operation. Without them, the average becomes 16,270 yen per month. Post operation, the number of patients who reported to have no medical expenditures increased to 11. The average medical expenditure for postoperative patients was found to be 3,286 yen per month. This means that an average of 9,311 yen decrease per patient, totaling 111,732 yen per year. Furthermore, the social medical cost was decreased by 372,440 yen. In addition, medical related financial expenditures for food, transportation, supplements, entertainment, and utilities decreased. On the other hand, expenditures for items such as clothing, and beauty/hairdressing costs increased. Overall, there was a decrease of 40,546 yen per patient. **Analysis:** It is thought that the annual medical cost reduction effect lasts and even increases with the age of the patient. If a patient was 30 years old at the time of operation, and it was assumed that they lived to be 80, a medical expenditure decrease of 18,622,000 yen is expected according to the data collected from the survey. This means that the present value after 3% discount from the interest would be 9,870,277 yen. From the patient's point of view, the medical cost (not including what is covered by insurance) is 2,300,000 yen, which could be collected in less than five years (57 months). It can be said that it is a very advantageous investment of 10 times of long-term national bond interest rate of 2.1% for 20 years.