

National report from Hong Kong

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Bariatric surgery is a new specialty in Hong Kong and it is growing from its infancy stage. It was introduced in Hong Kong in 2001 and the development was very rapid in the past ten years. Bariatric procedure in Hong Kong is evolving from a single surgical procedure (gastric banding) to the full package of both endoscopic and laparoscopic surgeries. The primary procedures in Hong Kong at the moment are restrictive procedures (intra-gastric balloon, gastric banding, sleeve gastrectomy and sleeve plication), whereas malabsorptive procedures (mini-gastric bypass and sleeve gastrectomy with DJB) are reserved as second-line therapy. Initially, we encountered difficulties in persuading patients and even doctors in accepting such an invasive treatment for obesity. Now, more and more physicians and patients understand the importance of weight control in severe obesity and agree that the beneficial effect of surgery seems out-weighted its risk in selective group of patients. We will report the development of this specialty in Hong Kong.