

## Bariatric Fellowship Training in a Center of Excellence, Taiwan Experience

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**Background:** Bariatric surgery has gained more popularity in Asia-Pacific area. But, the multiple co-morbidities of morbid obesity and steep learning curve make comprehensive training program to be looked-for in recent years. Hereby, we present the fellowship training program in a unique International Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence (BSCOE) in Taiwan.

**Methods:** From July 2009 to July 2010, fellowship training process, learning curve, patients demographic data, operation time and surgical complications were all collected from different stages of the learning. According to the bariatric training protocol of the institution, data was analyzed and compared.

**Results:** In this one-year period, totally 346 laparoscopic bariatric operations were performed in the BMI Surgery Center, E-Da Hospital. As a primary surgeon, the fellowship performed 169 bariatric cases independently after 43 assistance. Different type of bariatric surgeries were performed, as gastric banding with or without gastric plication, sleeve gastrectomy and Roux-en-Y gastric bypass. There were only 5 surgical complications (3.55%). There was no mortality. In this journey, we reviewed different stages of the fellowship training, as being from a mere assistant, progressed to primary surgeon, and then supervisor.

**Conclusion:** Low complication rates came from excellent supervised bariatric training program and we proposed a bariatric surgery training guideline in Asia-pacific area.