



**Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA)**  
**Bariatric Surgery Outcomes Study**  
**Program Overview**

The aims of the bariatric surgery study were to describe:

1. The characteristics of patients receiving bariatric surgery;
2. The trends in the annual rate of bariatric surgeries in California;
3. The annual volume of surgeries;
4. The outcomes and predictors of these outcomes; and
5. The cost issues of bariatric surgery in California.

The results of this study, which was conducted by the Center for Medical Technology Policy and the Center for Surgical Outcomes and Quality, were reported at the April 12, 2007 board meeting by Drs. Clifford Ko and David Zingmond from UCLA.

The main conclusions of the study were:

- (1) Patient characteristics: obese population demographics different than treated patients
- (2) Trends:
  - Inpatient bariatric had increased, but may now be decreasing
  - Outpatient lap band procedures are increasing
  - Long term results are being debated
  - Increasing number of hospitals are performing bariatric surgery
- (3) Volume
  - Most hospitals are low volume
  - 70% of patients are treated at high volume hospitals
  - Higher risk patients do better at high volume hospitals
- (4) Outcomes:
  - Mortality is low, regardless of volume
  - Difficult to evaluate complications, but prior study shows complications occur and related to readmission
- (5) Costs:
  - Higher volume hospitals have lower charges than lower volume hospitals
  - Older and sicker patients stay longer
  - Higher volume hospitals have lower lengths of stay and lower charges
- (6) More research is still need to determine:
  - Quality of care measurement
  - Efficacy of outpatient procedures such as lap band
  - Longitudinal outcomes