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IMPACT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY IN A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY

Chilean Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery

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Background



Context

- Currently, bariatric surgery (BS) is recognized as the most effective treatment for obesity worldwide¹.
- Despite obesity being a global epidemic, there is a lack of data on countries that have public health policies (PHP) financing these treatments in private health institutions.

Recent Developments

- In 2022, Chile implemented a public policy targeting obese patients who meet certain criteria.
- This policy has led to a significant increase in both the coverage and the number of bariatric surgeries performed in the country.

Objectives

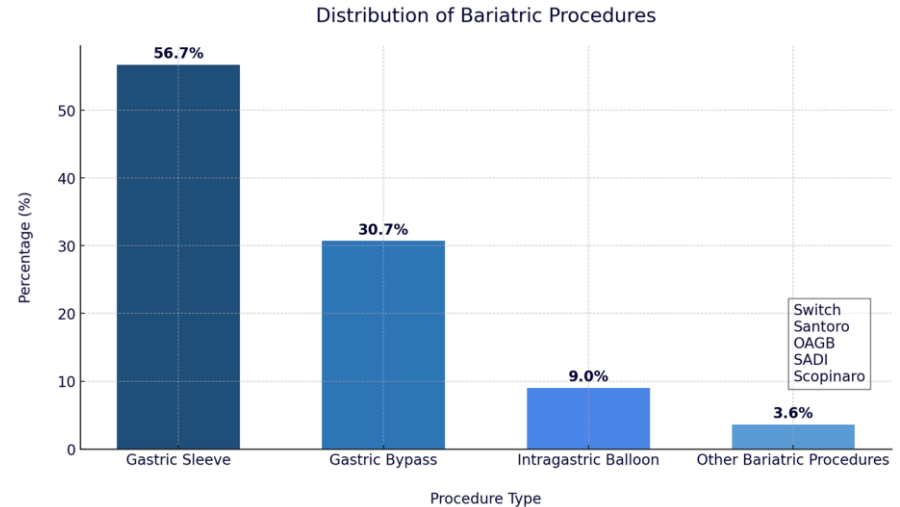
- The primary objective of this study is to assess the number of bariatric procedures performed in Chile over the past eight years.
- Additionally, the study aims to determine how the public policy has influenced the number and types of procedures performed since 2022.

¹ IFSO Consensus Conference Committee. Consensus on definitions and clinical practice guidelines for patients considering metabolic-bariatric surgery; 2023.

Methods and Results



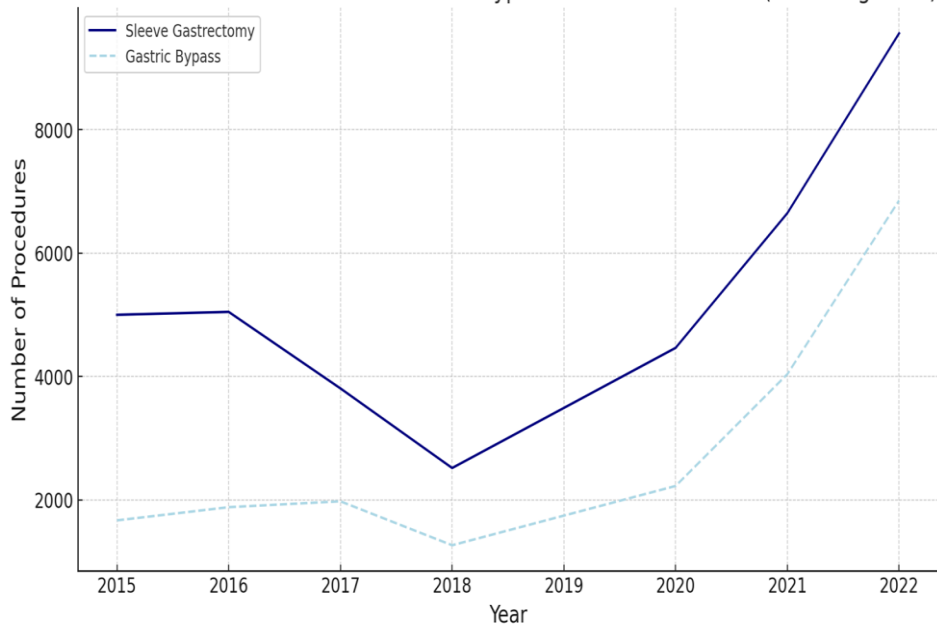
- Retrospective study, database from the National Registry of IFSO Chile, 2015 - 2022.
- To assess the difference in the number of bariatric surgeries following the PHP period, a non-parametric test (Fisher's exact test) was used.
- A total of 68,731 procedures were performed. With the exception of 2017, there has been a constant increase in the annual number of surgeries, from 2.7% between 2015-2016, up to 50% between 2021-2022.
- Besides, there is a statistically significant increase in the number of bariatric surgeries performed after PHP in 2022 ($p < 0.01$).



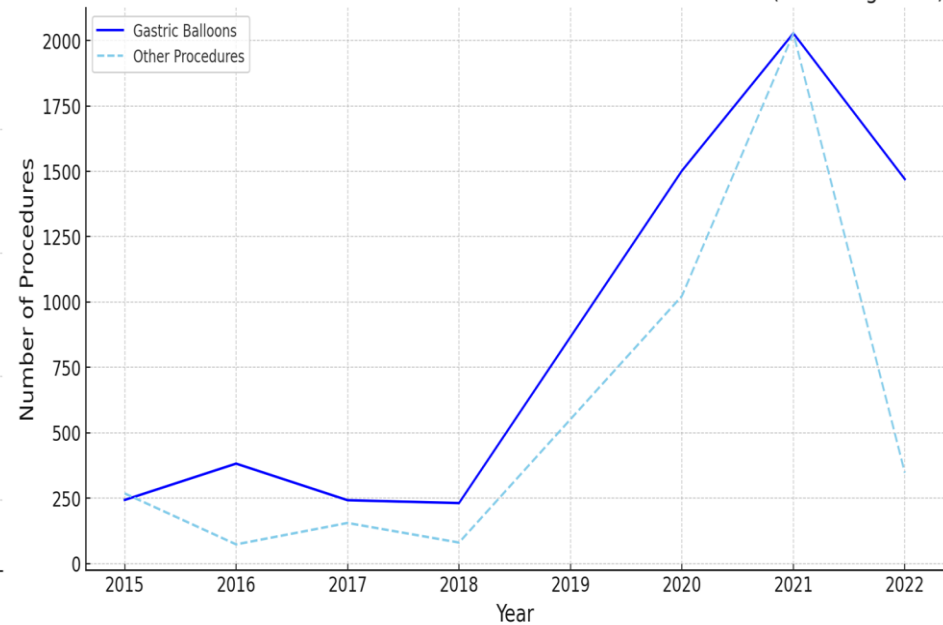
Methods and Results



Global Evolution of Sleeve and Gastric Bypass Procedures in Chile (excluding 2019)



Global Evolution of Gastric Balloons and Other Procedures in Chile (excluding 2019)



Conclusions



- Bariatric surgery in Chile has progressively increased during the assessed period, particularly sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass procedures.
- The inclusion of bariatric surgery as a benefit within the Chilean public health system has led to a doubling of surgeries performed compared to previous years.
- In the future, it will be necessary to assess the impact of this policy on obesity-related conditions within the population.

