

Current Medical Economic Problems Associated with Laparoscopic-assisted Colectomies

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Abstract : The treatment results and NHI (National Health Insurance) scores of 7 cases that underwent LAC (Laparoscopic-Assisted colectomy) were compared with those obtained for 31 cases of OC (open colectomy) in order to assess any associated problems. The treatment results indicate that LAC is less invasive, while allowing for an early discharge (27.2 days vs. 18.3 days). LAC has a low total NHI score and a high daily NHI score, thus yielding a reduced economic burden for patients and a more effective use of hospital beds. However, a large number of disposable devices that cannot be claimed by the Japanese insurance system were also used in LAC (¥323,166 vs. ¥47,986), which is economically inefficient for hospital management. Therefore, a further revision of the Japanese NHI system and lower costs such as obtaining high volume discounts are desirable.

Key words : Laparoscopic colectomy, Medical economics, National Health Insurance, disposable device