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Herald Sun

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Eating disorders for health funds

AUSTRALIAN private health funds may pay for patients to have revolutionary treatment for the eating disorders anorexia and bulimia.

The treatment is expensive — about \$160,000 a patient — but has a success rate of 75 per cent.

The pioneers of the program, called the Mandometer, were in Melbourne this week to launch their first Australian clinic.

Prof Per Sodersten and Dr Cecilia Bergh from Stockholm's Karolinska

Robyn Riley

Institute were joined by Prof Michael Leon, head of neurobiology and behaviour at the University of California Irvine.

Prof Leon is using the program in the US and one of America's largest health funds has signed a contract for its clients.

He said 90 per cent of seriously ill patients had a good outcome in 14 months with 75 per cent in complete remission.