



LAPAROSCOPIC ADJUSTABLE GASTRIC BANDING (LAGB)

At John Flynn & Pindara Private Hospital
1300weightloss (1300 934 448)

LAGB is the most commonly performed surgical weight loss procedure in Australia and has significant advantages over most other forms of weight loss surgery. Gastric banding is a reversible laparoscopic (keyhole) procedure in which a soft silicone band is placed around the top part of the stomach to create a small upper pouch, reducing the food holding capacity of the stomach. The collection of food in this small upper pouch results in patients feeling full quickly and eating less.

Who is Gastric Banding Surgery Most Suitable For?

Weight loss surgery assists those suffering from the medical, physical, and psychosocial effects of obesity. Associated problems often include:

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cardiac Problems
- Sleep Apnoea
- Certain Types of Cancer
- Joint Degeneration
- Social Isolation
- Depression
- Anxiety

The aim of weight loss surgery via LAGB is to significantly reduce the food-holding capacity of the stomach so patients feel full after eating much smaller meals. LAGB is most suitable for those in the obese to morbidly obese range: a body mass index (BMI) of 35-40, or greater in some cases. The procedure has also shown some suitability in patients with a slightly lower BMI than 35 but with significant associated health problems or co-morbidities. There is increasing evidence to show weight loss surgery has role to play in alleviating symptoms associated with type II diabetes.

About the Surgery

LAGB involves positioning a pliable band, to which a small inflatable tube-like balloon is firmly attached, around the upper portion of the stomach near the oesophagus. This small tube-like balloon along the side of the band is connected to a non-visible injection port that lies under the tissue layer of the skin. Using a hypodermic needle, the surgeon is able to add or withdraw saline from the band to influence the level of restriction experienced by patients. In adding saline, the loop around the upper part of the stomach closes inwards, creating an 'hour-glass' shape, leaving a smaller upper stomach and larger lower stomach. When eating, the smaller upper stomach holds the food and over time, between meals, breaks it down before it disperses into the larger lower portion of the stomach. The result is patients feel full after eating much smaller meals and are therefore able to control their calorie intake. Laparoscopic techniques with this procedure allow for reduced pain, shorter hospital stays, and earlier return to normal every day activities. More recent developments in LAGB include a single keyhole incision to minimize scarring.

Finance Available

To assist you with your weight loss goals, our in-house financial advisor can offer you up to 80% finance on your surgery, thanks to our WeightLoss Solutions Finance Program. Payment options include 12, 18 and 24 months; and, relevant advice is available regarding personal loans, income tax, and mortgage finance.

Our Options Include:

- Accessing your Superannuation Fund (in extreme cases)
- Accessing your Home Loan
- Weight Loss Finance Loans
- Private Health Fund Cover