

Physician Forum

THE REGION'S ONLY COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR
LAP-BAND® SYSTEM PATIENTS IS AVAILABLE AT
STS. MARY & ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

As a significant risk factor for type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, sleep apnea and other serious conditions, obesity contributes to 300,000 deaths each year. Studies demonstrate that weight-loss surgery, as compared to non-surgical treatments, yields the longest period of sustained weight loss in patients who have failed other therapies. The LAP-BAND® System is the only surgical treatment for obesity that is minimally invasive, adjustable, reversible and FDA-approved. It has been proven to be 10 times safer than gastric bypass and just as effective as other, more invasive bariatric procedures.

Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital and Louisville Surgical Bariatric Associates have developed the only program in the region that is designed exclusively for the care and management of the LAP-BAND® System patient.

A multidisciplinary team is committed to providing the highest level of care at every phase. Team members include surgeons, a bariatric coordinator, dietician and exercise physiologists. Access to psychological services is also available.

Pre-operative evaluation and all follow-up care are provided by the surgeons, Dr. John Olsofka, Dr. Vincent C. Lusco III and Dr. Bryce E. Schuster. Each has extensive training and experience in the procedure. Pre-operative testing is completed in one day. A six-week post-operative exercise program is offered. On-going post-operative support is available, as are monthly support group

meetings. Immediate surgery dates are available after insurance approval is received, and for self-pay patients.

How the LAP-BAND® System works

The System includes a silicone elastomer ring that is placed around the upper part of the stomach and filled with saline on the inner surface. This creates a smaller gastric pouch, limiting the amount of food that the stomach will hold at any time. The inflatable ring controls the flow of food from this smaller pouch to the rest of the digestive tract. The band is connected by tubing to an access port that is placed beneath the skin during surgery. Later, the surgeon can change the stoma size by adding or subtracting saline in the inner balloon through the access port. The system is usually placed laparoscopically on an outpatient basis. It is minimally invasive, reducing surgical trauma, complications, pain and scarring.

Who qualifies for the surgery?

In general, ideal candidates are between the ages of 18 and 65, and have a BMI greater than 40, or between 35 and 40 with comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, reflux or sleep apnea. Individuals are not eligible if they are on chronic high doses of steroids, have had gastric bypass/stapling or nissen fundoplication.

For more information, please contact the Bariatric Program Office at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital at (502) 361-6059.

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