

## Bonus: It's Not One-Size-Fits-All

One of the biggest differences between the LAP-BAND® System and gastric bypass surgery is that the band is adjustable without further surgery. In a 10-minute doctor visit, the band can be tightened or loosened by insertion of a fine needle. (With bypass surgery, the stomach pouch can stretch, which can only be fixed by surgery.) If a person with a LAP-BAND® System becomes ill or pregnant, the band can be loosened, allowing the patient to eat more food for as long as necessary.

### Adjustments Are Easy

About four to six weeks after surgery, you'll go to your doctor's office or the hospital for an initial adjustment. The doctor will find your port, either by feeling for it or using an x-ray. Then, he'll use a thin needle to add or remove salt water, which fine-tunes the tightness of the band. These adjustments take only about 10 minutes and are nearly pain-free. In the first year, you'll probably need several adjustments to get the band's fit just right. The goal? You want to be able to lose weight gradually without feeling hungry.

### Get a Second Chance After Gastric Bypass

Have you had gastric bypass surgery, only to be disappointed with the results? The most common type of gastric bypass surgery is called Roux-en-Y, and new research suggests that, when this type of surgery fails, the LAP-BAND® System can give some weight-loss patients another chance at success. In two small studies, people who had undergone gastric bypass surgery, followed by LAP-BAND® System surgery, were able to lose weight and improve their health just as well as patients who had only used the LAP-BAND® System.<sup>1,2</sup> Check with your doctor to see if your situation could benefit from LAP-BAND® System surgery.

#### References:

- 1 Gobble RM, Parikh MS, Greives MR, Ren CJ, Fielding GA. "Gastric Banding as a Salvage Procedure for Patients with Weight Loss Failure After Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass." *Surgical Endoscopy*. 2008 Apr;22(4):1019-22. Epub 2007 Oct 18.
- 2 Chin PL, Ali M, Francis K, LePort PC. "Adjustable Gastric Band Placed Around Gastric Bypass Pouch as Revision Operation for Failed Gastric Bypass." *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*. 2009 Jan-Feb;5(1):38-42. Epub 2008 Aug 22.