

Understanding LAP-BAND® Risks

DR. JOHN DIXON (*Expert on Obesity & Bariatric Surgery*):

The operation itself is very minimally invasive. In fact, at the time of surgery, it's done using lathroscopic equipment. The surgeon can see within the abdominal cavity.

The idea is to simply to place the band around the very upper part of the stomach. There is no cutting of the stomach, there's no stapling of the stomach, there's no rejoining bowel-to-bowel. It's a very straightforward positioning of the band in a very precise place, just at the top of the stomach.

LYN (*LAP-BAND® System patient*):

I went actually for gastric bypass and when I heard about LAP-BAND®, that was it.

DR. JOHN DIXON (*Expert on Obesity & Bariatric Surgery*):

It's a much more natural, a much more, a much safer way of losing weight. It's about ten times safer, as far as mortality is concerned. The risk dying is about a tenth that of having gastric bypass.

ARLENE (*LAP-BAND® System patient*):

Nothing about my LAP-BAND® experience has been painful, uncomfortable or negative. Everything has been positive and easy.

DR. JOHN DIXON (*Expert on Obesity & Bariatric Surgery*):

Patients should talk with their surgeon about the risks and complications associated with the LAP-BAND® System

IMPORTANT LAP-BAND® SYSTEM SAFETY INFORMATION

Indications: The LAP-BAND® System is indicated for use in weight reduction for severely obese patients with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of at least 40 or a BMI of at least 35 with one or more severe comorbid conditions, or those who are 100 lbs. or more over their estimated ideal weight.

Contraindications: The LAP-BAND® System is not recommended for non-adult patients, patients with conditions that may make them poor surgical candidates or increase the risk of poor results (e.g., inflammatory or cardiopulmonary diseases, GI conditions, symptoms or family history of autoimmune disease, cirrhosis), who are unwilling or unable to comply with the required dietary restrictions, who have alcohol or drug addictions, or who currently are or may be pregnant.

Warnings: The LAP-BAND® System is a long-term implant. Explant and replacement surgery may be required. Patients who become pregnant or severely ill, or who require more extensive nutrition may require deflation of their bands.

Anti-inflammatory agents, such as aspirin, should be used with caution and may contribute to an increased risk of band erosion.

Adverse Events: Placement of the LAP-BAND® System is major surgery and, as with any surgery, death can occur. Possible complications include the risks associated with the medications and methods used during surgery, the risks associated with any surgical procedure, and the patient's ability to tolerate a foreign object implanted in the body.

Band slippage, erosion and deflation, reflux, obstruction of the stomach, dilation of the esophagus, infection, or nausea and vomiting may occur. Reoperation may be required.

Rapid weight loss may result in complications that may require additional surgery. Deflation of the band may alleviate excessively rapid weight loss or esophageal dilation.

Important: For full safety information please visit www.Lapband.com, talk with your doctor, or call Allergan Product Support at 1-800-624-4261.

CAUTION: Rx only.