

THE LAP BAND METHOD

The LAP-BAND System's silicone elastomer band is placed around the upper part of the stomach to create a small pouch, which can hold only a small amount of food. The lower, larger part of the stomach is below the band. These two parts are connected by a small outlet created by the band. Food will pass through the outlet ("stoma" in medical terms) from the upper stomach pouch to the lower part more slowly, and you will feel full longer.

One of the major advantages of the LAP-BAND System is that the diameter of the band outlet is adjustable to meet your individual needs, which can change as you lose weight. The inner surface of the band can be inflated with liquid (saline solution) or deflated to modify the size of the stoma. The band is connected by tubing to a reservoir, which is placed well under the skin during surgery. After the operation, the surgeon can control the amount of saline in the band by entering the reservoir with a fine needle through the skin. The LAP-BAND System is a unique surgical treatment because in many cases the size of the stoma can be customized to accommodate your changing needs without further surgery.

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