

Just as there may be some expected benefits from the Lap-Band Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding procedure, all medical and surgical procedures, including Lap-Band Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding involve risks.



## Complication

## Description

Allergic Reaction

All kinds of allergic reactions are possible, from minor reactions such as rash to a sudden overwhelming reaction that can cause death.

Anesthetic Complications

Anesthesia used to put you asleep for the operation can be associated with a variety of different complications up to and including death.

Bleeding

Surgery involves incisions and cutting that can result in bleeding complications, from minor to massive, that can lead to the need for emergency surgery, transfusion or death.

Blood Clots

Also called Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism can sometimes cause death. I understand that I need to get out of bed the evening after surgery and move and flex my feet and legs to help prevent clots from forming in my legs.

Infection

Including wound infections, port site infections, bladder infections, pneumonia, skin infections and deep abdominal infections that can sometimes lead to death.

Narrowing (stricture)

Narrowing (stricture) or ulceration of the esophagus or pouch can occur after the operation which could require emergency surgery, intensive care and can sometimes lead to death. To protect your new pouch from ulcers, you must never again take aspirin, or aspirin like products such as Motrin, Ibuprofen, or other similar drugs.

Indigestion, Acid Reflux or Ulcers

The operation can sometimes lead to severe nausea, vomiting, indigestion, abdominal pain, gastritis or ulcers. This can be severe and can last for days, weeks and possibly even longer. This is especially likely if you have had previous problems with nausea, abdominal pain or ulcers.



## Complication

## Description

Bowel Obstruction

Any operation in the abdomen can leave behind scarring that can put the patient at risk for later bowel blockage or obstruction. The bowel can twist, obstruct and even perforate leading to serious complications, even death.

Laparoscopic Surgery Risks

Laparoscopic surgery uses punctures to enter the abdomen and this can lead to abdominal injury, bleeding and even death.

Side Effects of Drugs

All drugs have inherent risks and complications and in some cases can cause a wide variety of side effects, reactions and in some cases even death.

Risk of Transfusion

Including Hepatitis and AIDS from the administration of blood and / or blood components. These illnesses are severe and can be fatal.

Hernia

Cuts and incisions in the abdominal wall can lead to hernias after surgery. Hernias can lead to pain, bowel blockage, obstruction, and even perforation and death in some cases. Treatment of hernias usually requires another operation.

Hair Loss

Many patients develop hair loss for a period after the operation. When this occurs, it usually starts at 3-4 months following the surgery and resolves at 7-9 months. This usually responds to increased oral intake of protein and vitamins but it may be permanent.

Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies

After Bariatric surgery there is sometimes a lack of vitamins and minerals. Patients MUST take vitamins and mineral supplements forever to protect themselves from these problems. You also need to have yearly blood tests to measure the blood levels of these vitamins and minerals. Common deficiencies following this surgery are iron, calcium, B12, thiamine, and folate.

Gallstones

Reducing the amount of food intake can reduce the amount of bile secreted by the gallbladder. This can lead to accumulation of bile in the gallbladder, which can cause formation of gallstones. Gallstones can be painful and require surgery to remove the gallbladder. This can also lead to inflammation of the liver and / or pancreas.

Inadequate Weight Loss

**WARNING: Remember that you may not lose weight after the operation.**

There are patients that will fail any type of weight loss surgery. Inadequate weight loss is a risk of all types of surgery and all types of weight loss treatment.

I recognize that the LAP-BAND® is not by any means a perfect treatment and that one of the risks is a real possibility of inadequate weight loss following my LAP-BAND surgery.



## Complication

## Description

Excessive Weight Loss

Some patients sustain excessive weight loss after the operations and may require reversal of the bypass to prevent severe malnutrition, nausea, or vitamin and mineral deficiencies or death.

Complications of Pregnancy

Vitamin and minerals deficiencies can put the newborn babies of LAP-BAND mothers at risk. Pregnancy should be discussed with both your OB/Gyn as well as Dr. Cahill. To prevent malnutrition, inability to take in enough nutrition to properly support your baby or excessive nausea and vomiting, it is typically recommended that all saline be withdrawn from your band during pregnancy. The saline can be reinserted at a date after delivery.

Fatty Liver Disease

Obese patients are prone to have a preexisting condition known as Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NALF). Surgery may or may not improve this condition or progression of this disease.

Depression

Depression and anxiety are common medical illnesses and have been found to be particularly common after the operation. Dysfunctional and social problems or worsening of preexisting problems may occur, including divorce.

Cancer

Cancer can occur in anyone. Many cancers are more common in obese as compared to thin patients. Overweight men have a significantly higher rate of prostate cancer. Obese women have higher risks of developing breast cancer and cancer of the uterus and ovaries. It is expected, but not certain, that with weight loss you will have an overall decrease in your risk of cancer.

Loose Skin

It is common for persons who experience extensive weight loss to have loose skin in areas which were previously much larger. For cosmetic reasons, you may desire to have additional procedures to remove the excess skin.

Breathing Difficulty

Patients can develop pneumonia or other breathing problems requiring prolonged need for ventilator. Patients are strongly encouraged to stop smoking at least 1 month prior to the procedure.

Diarrhea or excessive flatulence

Patients can experience diarrhea or excessive gas or constipation. This may be experienced early or late.

Band Displacement (Prolapse)

Despite all efforts to secure the band in the proper place with regards to the stomach and esophagus, it is possible for the band to become dislodged and shift positions. When the band shifts, it is possible for the stomach to become prolapsed over the band, causing food to become trapped in this area.



## Complication

## Description

### Band Erosion

The band is made of a material that is not naturally found in the body. Thus, it is a foreign object. I realize that any time a foreign object is inserted into the body; it is the body's natural defense to try to reject the object. I understand that when this happens, the band could possibly erode through the tissue of my stomach, requiring removal of the band and repair of the damaged tissue. Damage caused by erosion could be permanent and can lead to death.

### Esophageal Dilation

There have been some reports that the esophagus has stretched or dilated in some patients. This can be caused by improper placement of the band, the band being tightened too much, stoma obstruction, binge eating, and excessive vomiting. Patients who have a weaker esophagus may be more likely to have this problem.

### Port Site Infection

As with the band, the port is also a foreign object being inserted into my body and has the chance of becoming infected, requiring the removal of the port and being replaced.

### Need for Band Removal

For multiple reasons as listed above, complications from the band may require removal of my band. It is my understanding that the band is a foreign object and dependent upon how my body reacts to this object, the band may not be well tolerated.

### Death

This is a major and serious operation. It may lead to death from complications. While uncommon, you must be aware that death can occur following this procedure, just as any other procedure.



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