

Gastric Banding Surgery

KEY POINTS



Gastric banding involves placing a silicone ring around the top of the stomach which contains an adjustable balloon. The ring can be made tighter by accessing a port with a needle and injecting fluid. The port is usually located under the skin in your upper abdomen. The band should help you reduce your portion sizes and control hunger sensations.

To succeed with the band you must be able to eat a meal slowly, chewing food carefully and selecting appropriate textures which will minimise vomiting. Many patients with the band with experience vomiting to some extent which often occurs because of difficulty adapting to new eating habits.

Follow-up after banding should be frequent to enable to band to be adjusted to the correct level to induce weight loss without excessive vomiting. The level of fluid required is different for everybody.

Below is a list of estimated complication rates associated with gastric banding surgery. Note that these rates assume a good risk patient without previous weight loss surgery and within a fairly standard weight and BMI range for the clinic.



Complication	Frequency	Comment
Death	1/2000 (0.05%)	
Leak	1/500 (0.2%)	Severe complication
Pulmonary Embolus	1%	Clot in the lungs which may cause respiratory failure or death
Open surgery required	1%	
Slipped Band	2-5%	Needs re-operation or removal of band
Band Erosion	1-2%	Needs band removed
Oesophageal dilatation	1-2%?	Might cause long term weakness of oesophagus
Problem with access port	10%	Infection, migration, leakage etc. Minor re-operation
Nutritional Deficiencies		Ongoing requirement for multivitamins
Any re-operation	approx 20%	Over 5 years
Failure to lose 25% of excess weight		15%
Failure to lose 50% of excess weight		50%

Note that performing gastric bypass or sleeve gastrectomy surgery after a band has been in place results in increased complication rates due to the residual scarring from the band.

Please sign and date to indicate your understanding of the above:

Sign: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____