

How Lap Band Works

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One of the best ways to learn about the Lap Band procedure is to go online or speak with someone who has had the procedure.

For those who choose to use the Internet to discover more about this weight loss procedure, there are a number of terms that they should become familiar with.

Among the terms are:

Adjustment: The Lap Band adjustment is performed by a lap band specialist to alter the size of the stoma by increasing or decreasing saline inside the band via the access port. The band adjustment process impacts the rate of weight decline and can be done in less than half an hour in the doctor's office.

Body Mass Index (BMI): A measure of body weight in relation to height. BMI will assist the lap band doctor to determine if an individual has a healthy weight, is overweight, or obese. A BMI of over 40 is a strong candidate for Lap Band. An individual can also be a candidate if their BMI is 27 or greater, they weigh at least twice your ideal weight, or they weigh at least 100 pounds more than their suggested weight. (BMI is calculated by dividing body weight (lbs.) by height in inches squared (in²) and multiplying that figure by 704.5).

Ileum: The lower third of the small intestine (10 feet in length) that plays a role in taking in digested food for the body.

Jejunum: The middle section of the small intestine (10 feet in length) where digestion is centered.

Obesity: This is a term for an individual who has a large amount of body fat. Obesity is labeled as having a BMI of 30 or higher.

Overweight: Condition of weighing too much for one's slated height. Overweight is looked at as having a BMI of 25 to 30. Overweight does not always indicate fat, as athletes, for example, can weigh more as a result of muscle. Body weight is a mix of fat, muscle, bone, and body water.

Port: Access point for adjusting the Lap Band. It is located below the skin and is connected to tubing that is attached to the Lap Band.

Stoma: The stomach outlet created by the Lap Band located between the two parts of the stomach. The size of the stoma regulates the flow of food from the upper pouch to the lower portion of the stomach.