

LAP-BAND[®] SYSTEM

The world's
best-selling
gastric band.



LAP-BAND^{AP}
S Y S T E M

Finally, a *personalized* weight-loss solution you can feel great about.

For the millions of people who continue to wage a courageous battle with excessive weight, hope is finally here. The LAP-BAND® System is a true breakthrough in healthy, long-term weight loss.

Tested and trusted, the LAP-BAND® System is the #1 adjustable gastric band. In fact, over 400,000 have been sold worldwide¹. And unlike other surgical options you may be familiar with, the LAP-BAND® System is minimally invasive.

Take a few moments and learn what makes the LAP-BAND® System, and its online support program, My LAP-BAND® Journey, so unique. And how it will help make it possible for you to start living a healthier life—for your children, your family, and yourself.

Your results may vary.
See page 14 for Important Safety Information.



“Since the LAP-BAND surgery I’ve gone back to feeling like I’m in my teens again.”

Tammi, Charlotte, NC



“When I was in my teens I was very athletic. When I was in my 20s I gained all the weight. I tried every diet known to man. Nothing worked for me. I would lose 30 pounds and gain 50 every single time. And I did that ten times over. So when I looked into the LAP-BAND®, it just seemed that it was my last hope, the last chance for me to change my life. My husband wasn’t even able to carry me over the threshold on our wedding night because I was just too heavy. But now he picks me up all the time. There’s nothing that I would do to trade this.”

Tammi has been a LAP-BAND® System patient since 2006

What is the LAP-BAND® System?

It's a minimally-invasive surgical procedure that helps you lose weight.

An adjustable silicone ring is surgically inserted and placed like a belt around the upper part of the stomach. The ring—or band—is connected by thin tubing to an access port just below the skin. Through this port, your surgeon adjusts the fit of the LAP-BAND® System by inflating or deflating its inner lining with saline solution to meet your individual needs.

The LAP-BAND® System reduces your stomach capacity and restricts the amount of food you're able to eat at one time. With the LAP-BAND® System, you'll feel full sooner and stay full longer, so you wind up eating less. Although weight loss of three pounds a week is possible,² patients usually lose a healthy one-to-two pounds a week on average.³

Allergan has over a decade of experience in gastric banding and is dedicated to providing you with the world's most advanced product. And to assure that you receive the best care possible, every LAP-BAND® System surgeon is trained and given access to clinical best practices and tools through our unique LAP-BAND Total Care™ program.

See page 14 for Important Safety Information.

Features of the latest-generation LAP-BAND AP® System:

- The proprietary Omniform™ technology was specially designed to ensure advanced performance. The precurved sections are designed to minimize possible leaks due to creases or folds. Plus, it offers a 360° inflation area for secure placement, and added flexibility for more precise adjustments. The result: a perfect fit right from the start.
- Designed for increased flexibility and a wider range of adjustment for your individual needs.
- Available in two sizes, the third generation LAP-BAND AP® System is tailored for your anatomy, allowing your surgeon to choose the best option for you.
- The most advanced adjustable gastric system approved by the FDA.



The LAP-BAND® System procedure:

1. Your surgeon implants the LAP-BAND® System around the upper part of your stomach.
2. A tube is then connected from the LAP-BAND® System to an access port affixed to the muscle beneath the skin of your abdomen.
3. Adjustments to the LAP-BAND® System are made through the access port, as needed to maintain optimal weight loss, by adding saline solution, or removing it.

Why you should consider the LAP-BAND® System.

Losing excess weight can lead to better health.

Weight loss can not only improve your quality of life, but also prevent or lower your risk of developing life-threatening diseases. If your BMI is 35+, the threshold for obesity, and you have one or more serious health conditions, you may want to consider this effective weight loss solution. Best of all, losing weight can lower your risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, arthralgia, back, and joint pain. If you have these or other health conditions, losing excess weight may improve or even resolve these conditions⁴.

A safe choice when diet and exercise aren't enough.

You've probably tried to lose weight before, but gained it all back. For many people, it's a never-ending cycle. But you're not alone. Studies have shown that patients on traditional weight-loss programs lose weight, but often regain 2/3 of it within one year — and almost all of it within five years.⁵ The LAP-BAND® System will help you take it off, and keep it off.

The longest history of success in the United States.

When traditional weight-loss methods fail, consider the LAP-BAND® System — the adjustable gastric band with a track record you can trust. It has been proven:

- To help patients KEEP weight off for a longer period of time than with non-surgical treatments.⁶
- To be safer than gastric bypass.⁶
- To result in steady, healthy weight loss.

LAP-BAND® SYSTEM	GASTRIC BYPASS
No stomach stapling, cutting or intestinal rerouting	Cutting and stapling of stomach and bowel are required
Adjustable to fit each patient's individual needs	Non-adjustable
Reversible; can be removed if necessary	Extremely difficult to reverse
10 times lower short-term mortality rate ⁷	Higher mortality rate ⁸
Lower operative complication rate ⁴	More operative complications ⁸
Low malnutrition risk	Risk of medical complications due to nutritional deficiencies ⁹

See page 14 for Important Safety Information.

Ask if the LAP-BAND® System is right for *you*

This is an important decision and the LAP-BAND® System may not be right for everyone. Your surgeon will take many things into consideration when you're deciding if it's the treatment that's best for you. For example, you may be eligible for LAP-BAND® System surgery if you meet the criteria listed here:

- You are at least 18 years old
- Your Body Mass Index (BMI) is at least 40, or your BMI is at least 35 and you have one or more serious health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, or you are at least 100 pounds overweight
- You have been overweight for more than 5 years
- Your serious weight-loss attempts have had only short-term success
- You are not suffering from any other disease that may have caused your excess weight
- You are prepared to make healthy changes in your eating habits and lifestyle

In addition, you may also want to ask your surgeon about any other criteria he or she uses.

More helpful information about the LAP-BAND® System can be found at www.lapband.com, where you can find a complete list of questions to ask your surgeon. While you're there, be sure to enroll in My LAP-BAND® Journey, your personal guide through your weight loss journey. We encourage you to read more about this invaluable resource on the following pages.

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Q uick questions to ask your surgeon.

For many people, the LAP-BAND® Adjustable Gastric Banding System has proven to be their most appropriate weight-loss option.

Finding out if it's right for you starts with talking to your surgeon—and knowing the right questions to ask. For example, it's a good idea to bring up your Body Mass Index (or BMI), and to discuss other health conditions you may be suffering from.

To help you start this important conversation, here are some topics we would encourage you to discuss with your surgeon.

Consider telling your surgeon about:

- The weight-loss methods you've tried in the past that haven't worked for you.
- The activities in your life that have been negatively impacted by your weight.

You may want answers to these questions:

- What experience and results do you have with adjustable gastric bands?
- Does my BMI make me a candidate for the LAP-BAND® System?
- What are the benefits and risks of undergoing LAP-BAND® System surgery?
- What eating and lifestyle changes are necessary with the LAP-BAND® System?
- What support do you offer after the procedure?

Personalized *online* support every step of the way.

The LAP-BAND® System is designed to work in tandem with our free, online support program: My LAP-BAND® Journey.

Your personal journey begins when you start asking if a surgical weight loss option is right for you. Resources are available to answer your questions and guide you through the lifestyle changes that will lead you to success before and after surgery. Our online support program, with tips for eating healthy, exercise and emotional well being, is designed to help guide you through these changes, so you can safely achieve maximum weight loss results.

- **www.lapband.com** – Our patient education website helps you understand how the LAP-BAND® System works, how to prepare for surgery and tips and tools for living with the LAP-BAND® System. Also, you can read our success stories, see a list of FAQs, find free seminars in your area, and submit your own success story.
- **Emmi™** – A free, interactive program to view online. It's an easy way to learn what to expect before, during and after your procedure. Ask your surgeon if he or she offers Emmi.™



When you sign up for our support program, you'll gain access to even more useful information and support to help you along your journey towards a healthier life, from initial interest to years after surgery.

- **Exclusive Online Tools.** Track your progress, document achievements, celebrate milestones, find LAP-BAND® System seminars in your area, locate a surgeon, watch videos about the surgery plus hear stories about the people who have had it.
- **Email Support Program.** Receive reminders for well-being, new diet and exercise programs, plus tips and timely information for every step in your LAP-BAND® System journey.

Begin your weight loss journey today by signing-up for our online support program at www.lapband.com.

The LAP-BAND® System can be very *affordable*



“It’s the best investment I ever made. I lost 130 lb.”

Alan, Dalton, GA

LAP-BAND® System patient since 2002

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Our Reimbursement Hotline: Your ultimate financial resource.

With the LAP-BAND® System, expert financial assistance is only a phone call away. If you’ve been rejected by your insurance provider, require help in the claim process, or have any questions regarding financing and payments, simply visit www.lapband.com or call **1-800-LAP-BAND** and select option 3 to speak to one of our reimbursement counselors. They’re specially trained to help you, with knowledge of reimbursement policies in your geographic region.



For many, health insurance or Medicare will cover the LAP-BAND® System procedure. But even if it doesn’t, you still have options.

Insurance

- Contact your insurance provider to find out if they will cover the cost of your LAP-BAND® System surgery.
- If covered, check your health plan policy to find out if you will need to meet certain criteria before undergoing surgery.
- Visit www.lapband.com to download other helpful documents related to payment options, including medical expense tax deductions, a sample letter of medical necessity as well as information on appeals.

CareCredit® Patient Payment Plans:

- Find out if your doctor participates in CareCredit® Patient Payment Plans, an exclusive LAP-BAND® System patient financing program with the most flexible financing options available for bariatric surgery. CareCredit® provides instant approval notification for 100% financing of your insurance deductible or the total cost of the procedure, up to \$25,000. Plus, they offer high approval rates and payment plans up to 84 months. Call 1- 866-247-3049 or visit www.carecredit.com to apply.
- If your doctor does not participate, encourage him or her to contact a CareCredit® representative to discuss the benefits of offering CareCredit® payment plans to patients.
- If CareCredit® remains unavailable to you, keep looking into financing packages offered by other lending institutions that cover medical procedures.

A brief description of relevant indications for use, contraindications, warnings and adverse events for the LAP-BAND® System.

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. The LAP-BAND® System is indicated for use only in severely obese adult patients who have failed more conservative weight-reduction alternatives, such as supervised diet, exercise, and behavior modification programs. Patients who elect to have this surgery must make the commitment to accept significant changes in their eating habits for the rest of their lives.

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 at some time. Patients who become pregnant or severely ill, or who require more extensive nutrition, may require deflation of their bands. Patients should not expect to lose weight as fast as gastric bypass patients, and band inflation should proceed in small increments. 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 malnutrition, anemia, or other 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 or call Allergan Product Support at **1-800-624-4261**.

CAUTION: This device is restricted to sale by or on the order of a physician.

For more information on any aspect of the LAP-BAND® System, please visit www.lapband.com.

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Please be certain to consult
your physician before starting
any weight-loss program.

www.lapband.com

1-800-305-3506



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