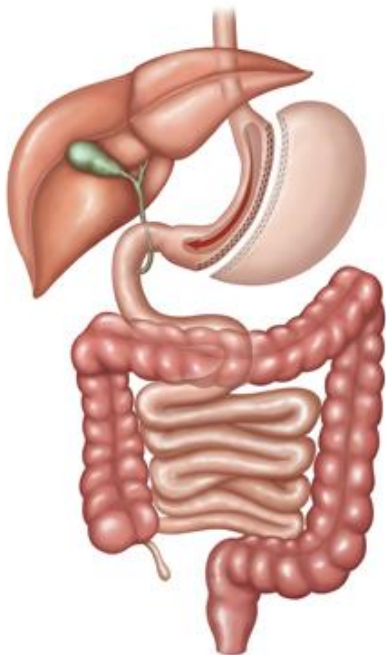


Sleeve Gastrectomy

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Important Facts About Sleeve Gastrectomy

- ✓ The portion of the stomach that produces ghrelin (a hormone that stimulates hunger) is removed.
- ✓ The stomach is reduced in volume, but otherwise tends to function normally.
- ✓ **No** “Dumping Syndrome” since the pylorus is preserved.
- ✓ **No** intestine is bypassed so there is little chance of nutritional deficiencies.
- ✓ **No** implanted device that requires adjusting.
- ✓ Weight loss over 1 year is approximately 60-70% of excess body weight.
- ✓ Procedure is performed laparoscopically.
- ✓ Usually done as an outpatient.
- ✓ Lowest cost surgery (<\$14,000) for those not using insurance.

The sleeve gastrectomy is a weight loss procedure that offers an excellent alternative to both the gastric bypass and the adjustable gastric band. Because anatomy remains normal, this procedure can be considered for people with less weight to lose (50-60 lbs overweight) as well as those with much more weight to lose (hundreds of pounds).

During the procedure a small “sleeve-shaped” stomach is created. Approximately 75% of the “stretchy” portion of the stomach is removed. This also removes the portion of the stomach that produces the hormone ghrelin. Ghrelin is a hormone that tends to make you feel hungry. The remaining “sleeve” of stomach is about the size and shape of a medium banana.

This procedure tends to work due to 2 major reasons:

1. You have a much smaller stomach and will feel full with eating only a small amount.
2. There is a decrease in the hormone ghrelin so that hunger is much better controlled.

The sleeve gastrectomy was originally developed as the 1st stage of a 2 stage procedure (patients would undergo a conversion of the sleeve gastrectomy to a bypass procedure). However, it was found to work so well on its own that most patients did not need (or want) to go through with the next stage.

One does need to realize that this surgery **can not** be reversed (i.e. once that part of the stomach is gone...it’s gone). This operation is a procedure which I like to think of as an “in between” procedure. The risks and results are somewhere between a laparoscopic adjustable gastric band and a gastric bypass.