



Effective Health Care

Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding (LAGB) for Metabolic Conditions

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (LAGB) for metabolic conditions will go forward for refinement as a comparative effectiveness or effectiveness review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/getInvolved.cfm?involveType=subscribe>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Public payer

Nomination Summary: The nominator suggests there is an increase in requests for coverage of “lapband” surgery for metabolic conditions, including type 2 diabetes, even in settings where its use is not supported. The nominator also asserts that there is a high cost and uncertainty associated with long-term outcomes. The nominator is interested in the evidence base surrounding laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (LAGB) for the treatment of metabolic conditions.

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- This topic represents high public interest and clinical uncertainty. According to the American Heart Association, the majority of type 2 diabetes cases can be attributed to obesity, and diabetes is one of the most important complications of obesity. Many recent studies on the effectiveness of bariatric surgery for the treatment of diabetes have shown bariatric surgery to be more effective in treating type 2 diabetes than conventional therapy. Some experts are now questioning whether bariatric surgery, such as a less invasive laparoscopic gastric banding, should be the first-line treatment for obese patients with type 2 diabetes.

- A focus on patients of all ages and a body mass index (BMI) under 35 will be critical for a report on this topic in order to determine the effects of bariatric surgery on otherwise healthy patients who have diabetes.