



NEWS RELEASE

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SAINT FRANCIS SURGEON OFFERS NEW DEVICE IN TREATING PATIENTS WITH MORBID OBESITY

(Hartford, CT) – Ioannis Raftopoulos, MD., Director of Bariatric Surgery at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Connecticut, is utilizing a new tool to help patients successfully reach their weight loss goals after surgery.



The *REALIZE™ Adjustable Gastric Band* is a new and innovative device that is surgically implanted around the stomach to help patients with morbid obesity lose weight and simultaneously improve health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, hypertension and high cholesterol, conditions commonly associated with morbid obesity.

“This is a high-volume, low-pressure band which introduces less pressure to the tissue surrounding the stomach compared to other types of gastric bands,” explains Dr. Raftopoulos. “It also has a wider cuff that may reduce the incidence of band slippage, a known complication of gastric band procedures, while providing more comfort for the patient,” adds Dr. Raftopoulos.

Gastric band patients are able to lose significant weight and improve their overall health status. However, surgery is just one stop along a patient’s journey. Patients must still make changes to their diet and lifestyle after surgery and commit to a life-long follow-up with their bariatric surgeon in order to achieve long-term success.

At the Bariatric Center at Saint Francis, the goal is to help keep patients on the right track long after they have had a bariatric procedure. Patients are given a tailored progress plan, custom-made to each individual patient’s needs, intended to help develop new health habits for physical activity, nutrition, and emotional well-being.

“At Saint Francis, we are proud to be on the leading-edge when it comes to bariatric surgery and offer to our bariatric patients superb outcomes above the national standards. This new band allows surgeons yet another option in treating morbidly obese patients with successful results,” said Jeffrey Steinberg, MD., Chairman of Surgery at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

According to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), more than 15 million people in the United States suffer from morbid obesity. In 2007, approximately 200,000 Americans underwent some form of bariatric surgery.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets and is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.