

# Lap-Band: The Safest Surgical Weight Loss Procedure

Albany  
Surgical, P.C.

For years, Dr. Joseph Burnette of Albany Surgical, P.C. was unable to professionally recommend weight loss surgery because the procedures were just too risky. "Gastric Bypass and Vertical Banded Gastroplasty have an unacceptably high rate of serious complications and death," Dr. Burnette explains. "That's why we made it a goal to find a safer surgical alternative to help our patients."

In 2002, Dr. Burnette found the kind of safer procedure his patients needed when he discovered the Lap-Band® System weight loss surgery and Albany Surgical was the first practice in South Georgia to make it available. "I completed Lap-Band training in 2002 and assisted in the creation of the

Obesity Treatment Center of Southwest Georgia located at HCA Palmyra Medical Center the same year," says Dr. Burnette. "In the six years since then, I have performed or assisted in over 400 successful Lap-Band surgical procedures."

Performed laparoscopically, Lap-Band surgery is minimally invasive and requires only small incisions. It can generally be performed on an outpatient basis and, unlike other surgical weight loss procedures, has an excellent safety record. Plus, the surgery is completely reversible, since the natural anatomy is unchanged and nothing is removed.

"Patients still must make long term dietary changes, and get regular exercise to obtain the full benefit of the procedure, but unlike other procedures, it is fully adjustable to the needs of the individual patient," Dr. Burnette says.

Dr. Burnette's partner, Dr. Chris Smith, was so impressed with the safety and results Lap-Band patients were achieving that he decided to seek training in the procedure as well. "Not only did patients achieve remarkable weight loss," says Dr. Smith, "but most saw improvements in blood pressure, diabetes, and other conditions related to obesity."



Chris Smith, M.D. and Joseph Burnette, M.D.  
at Albany Surgical, P.C.

## A History of Excellence

With five surgeons and over 50 years in operation, Albany Surgical, P.C. is the oldest and largest general surgery practice in South Georgia. "Our size is a patient advantage—you never have to worry that help won't be available when you need it," says Dr. Smith. "We offer personal level service, with the added benefit of a backup system of multiple surgeons and staff. That provides tremendous peace of mind to our patients."

The staff has six years of experience in obtaining insurance approval for the Lap-Band procedure and, for patients without insurance coverage, significant discounts are available.

*To learn more about the Lap-Band System weight loss surgery, or to schedule a consultation, please call 229-434-4200 or 1-800-537-6107.*

## The Safest Approach to Surgical Weight Loss

The number one implantable weight loss device in the world, the Lap-Band System has been successfully used more than 250,000 times and medical studies have found that Lap-Band patients experience a less than one percent rate of serious complications. Not only is the Lap-Band System safer than any other weight loss surgery, "long term data indicates that it is just as effective in weight loss as the more dangerous procedures," says Dr. Smith of Albany Surgical, P.C.



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Albany **Surgical** P.C.

Specialists in General Surgery & Surgical Weight Loss