

## Gastric Band in India

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Bariatric surgery started late in India. VBG was introduced in late 1990s. First gastric band surgery in India was done in 2000 & subsequently till 2005 almost all surgeons started bariatric career with gastric band. Most of experienced laparoscopic surgeons could adept gastric band comfortably & numbers of band surgeries increased rapidly till realization started settling in that band is not effective in almost 25% - 35% with 3 year explantation rates of 20% - 30% in different hands.

Introduction of gastric bypass & sleeve gastrectomy has led to further decline in gastric band surgery's fortunes in India. Gastric band now accounts for less than 1% of procedures in most of bariatric practices. Few recent centers have shown renewed interest in gastric band implantations with successful outcomes.

Various reasons attributed to poor results seen by Indian surgeons may be attributed to poor follow up due to failure to get regular adjustments due to long distances, incompletely developed bariatric program, high rate of oesophageal dilatation etc. Lack of patience, due to slow weight loss results, compared to other bariatric surgeries may also attribute to high explanation rate.

Gastric band surgery accounts for almost 50% of bariatric procedures in USA, but only long term follow up will show whether fate of bands will follow the Indian graph. As gastric sleeve is becoming the procedure of choice amongst bariatric surgeons & patients in India, the future of gastric band surgery in India is bleak.