

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Purpose of this study: Explore and discover themes found on a Facebook support group page for persons who have undergone laparoscopic adjustable gastric band surgery.

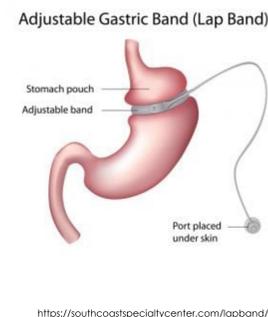


BACKGROUND/ SIGNIFICANCE (Literature Review)

- The Laparoscopic Band procedure involves placing an inflatable band around the upper portion of the stomach
- Physically limits how much can be eaten
- Complications include severe acid reflux, the band moving out the proper position, and food sensitivity
- This Facebook group consists of members who joined because they have a laparoscopic band or are considering getting one

METHODS

- A qualitative descriptive design was used to analyze data gathered by doing keyword searches of posts
- Data collected for 3 months
- IRB approval and permission from group admin was obtained
- Colazzi method was used



RESULTS- THEMES

"Fill fluctuations and frustrations"

"I got a quarter of fluid put back in"

The process and difficulties of maintaining adequate and comfortable amounts of fluid in the band to achieve maximum weight loss.

"had mine unfilled"

"can't have anymore fills"

"Since 2013 so many ups and downs"

"Community collaboration"

"Anyone have...?"

Members of the group post in search of advice and other's experiences, ask questions, and support one another along their journey.

"Has anyone ever been in my shoes?"

"input please"

"Best of luck!"

"Life with a band"

"I had emergency port revision"

Daily struggles faced with the band. Topics include feeling sick, feeling as if food is "stuck" having major complications, and having subsequent procedures.

"vomiting"

"esophagitis"

"Constipation"

"Just had band removed"

"pain"

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Common theme: Not being able to find a fill amount that is comfortable and successful at promoting weight loss
- Members actively engage with one another
- Complaints of complications common
- Members collaborate and to find ways to avoid side effects
- Many members have the band removed.
- Not many members have found long term success with the band.

CONCLUSIONS

- Themes developed- "Fill fluctuations", "Community collaboration", and "Life with a band"
- While members often post of their success or "before/ after" updates, most posts are related to a complication or concern the member is having
- The group has become an avenue of support and learning for members

IMPLICATIONS

- Discussion: The journey bariatric patients face can impact them mentally and physically.
- These findings can be used by nurses and providers to offer patient specific care.
- Social media platforms can reach patients and support them post operatively.

REFERENCES

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