

Laparoscopic insertion of a magnetic ring for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

Information for the public

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This procedure can be used for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) because it works well and there are no serious concerns about its safety in this condition.

GORD can happen when the ring of muscle between the food pipe (oesophagus) and the stomach does not close properly. Stomach acid can then travel up towards the throat (reflux), causing symptoms such as heartburn and nausea. This procedure is done under general anaesthesia. Using keyhole (laparoscopic) surgery, a ring of beads is placed around the outside of the food pipe, just above the stomach. Magnets inside the beads hold them together to keep the food pipe closed but are weak enough to move apart to allow food or liquid to be swallowed. The aim is to prevent acid reflux.

The [NHS website](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

You can [search the NHS website for information about consultants and hospitals](#) that offer this procedure.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on interventional procedures recommendations](#) explains what standard arrangements are.

The [Oesophageal Patients Association](#), 0121 704 9860, can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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