



Bariatric Surgery Guide



Lisa and Shawn
Lost 147 lbs. & 183 lbs.

Take the first step toward a healthier you and register for a free weight loss surgery seminar.

866-965-4957



Take the first step toward a healthier you.

Our Team is Your Team

To lose weight, sometimes it takes more than just willpower and a lifestyle change. It requires **expert help**.

Choosing weight loss surgery is a big decision. When you choose bariatric surgery at Atrium Health, you get **your own personal weight loss support team**. We'll keep you involved, informed and inspired to embrace a healthier lifestyle.

Our dedicated staff will educate you about the surgery process, address your concerns and **help you adapt** to life before and after your surgery.

Candidates for Bariatric Surgery:

- Must be between 18 and 70 years old, in most cases.
- Have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or more.
- Often have a chronic disease such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure or sleep apnea.
- Should be highly motivated to make a lasting change.

You're Not Alone

Obesity is one of the leading health issues in the country. **More than half of Americans are overweight** and roughly 12 million are severely obese*, leaving them at risk for developing more than 30 health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, degenerative joint disease and premature death.

A Roadmap to Success

To ensure the most successful surgical outcomes, our team will evaluate your overall health and perform a comprehensive physical exam. We consider your:

- Family health history
- Existing medical conditions
- Behavioral patterns
- Emotional, environmental influences
- Nutrition
- Weight history
- Diet attempts
- Eating habits

*100 pounds overweight or more, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Lynn
Lost 160 lbs.

Surgery Options

Our board-certified surgeons use minimally invasive techniques that help patients **recover faster, with fewer complications**. We offer the following weight loss surgeries:

- **Adjustable Gastric Band**

Considered the least invasive option, this surgery limits food intake and helps you feel full with less food.

How it works: An adjustable silicone band is wrapped around the upper part of your stomach and is adjusted as needed.

- **Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy**

Studies show this surgery often results in greater weight loss than the adjustable gastric band.

How it works: A portion of your stomach is removed. The banana-shaped pouch that's left helps limit the amount of food that is consumed.

- **Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass**

Studies show this surgery often results in the greatest weight loss compared to the gastric band and sleeve gastrectomy.

How it works: Your stomach is stapled and divided to create a small pouch that allows food to bypass a section of the small intestine. This limits the amount of food you consume and limits the absorption of calories.



Support and Guidance Along the Way

Long-term weight loss takes commitment, but our team will be with you at every turn. We partner with Atrium Health Weight Management to give you the resources and direction you need throughout your weight loss journey.

- We provide a comprehensive follow-up program that includes psychological support, nutrition advice and exercise training.
- We offer monthly support groups and individual counseling to address self-defeating habits.

Financial Guidance

Our specialists will help you understand:

- Your medical insurance coverage as it relates to weight loss surgery.
- The specifics of your weight loss surgery insurance benefits.
- Your out-of-pocket expenses and financial responsibilities.

Choose Excellence

We're ready to be your weight loss partner, and we're confident our knowledge and expertise can give you the jumpstart you need to achieve your goals.

- **A Team Approach**

Our dietitians, bariatricians, mental health providers, registered nurses, exercise specialists, and surgeons work together to create a plan tailored to your needs.

- **Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence**

Because of our commitment to safe, high quality care, we earned the American College of Surgeons Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Involvement Program designation.

- **Nationally Recognized**

The Joint Commission ranked Atrium Health Mercy the top hospital in North Carolina, and fifth in the nation, for disease-specific care in bariatrics.

- **Non-Surgical Options**

Our weight management program helps patients who want to consider non-surgical options to healthy weight loss.

- **Quality Care**

Our bariatric program exceeds national standards for quality and patient safety.

Bariatric surgery is performed at Atrium Health Cabarrus and Atrium Health Mercy. Both have earned the following distinctions:

- Aetna Institutes of Quality.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery.
- Cigna Certified Center for Bariatric Surgery.
- OptumHealth (United Healthcare) Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will I be out of work?

Everyone recovers differently, but patients can usually return to work in 3 weeks or less. Patients can expect to walk the evening after surgery and on a regular basis in the days that follow.

Will my insurance cover bariatric surgery?

Each patient's insurance plan is different. Bring your photo ID and insurance card to one of our free bariatric seminars, and a financial coordinator will help you understand your coverage.

How long does surgery last?

Depending on the procedure you choose, surgery can last up to 2 hours.

What kind of foods can I eat after surgery?

Most patients can eat small portions of their typical foods about a month after surgery. All patients meet with a dietician before surgery to create a healthy eating plan. To avoid discomfort and possible complications, patients are encouraged to "eat protein first" at every meal and limit foods that are high in sugar or carbohydrates.

Will I ever gain weight after surgery?

Obesity can cause biological changes within your body that may make you more likely to regain weight. However, with proper nutrition and certain lifestyle changes, you can keep off your weight for a lifetime.

What are the benefits of surgery?

Not only can you expect to lose at least 50% of excess weight, you'll also improve or eliminate obesity-related conditions, such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, sleep apnea and fatty liver disease.

Our Bariatric Surgeons



Roc Bauman, MD, FACS,
FASMBS
Location: Concord



Keith Gersin, MD,
FACS, FASMBS
Location: Charlotte



Timothy Kuwada, MD,
FACS, FASMBS
Location: Charlotte



Abdelrahman Nimeri,
MD, FACS, FASMBS
Location: Charlotte and
Ballantyne

Our Locations

Atrium Health Weight Management - Ballantyne

14214 Ballantyne Lake Road, Suite 200 | Charlotte, NC 28277
704-667-2681

Atrium Health Weight Management - Charlotte

2630 E. Seventh St., Suite 100 | Charlotte, NC 28204
704-355-9484

Atrium Health Weight Management - Concord

1090 Vinehaven Drive | Concord, NC 28025
704-403-7580