

# Sleeve Gastrectomy Surgery

## KEY POINTS



Sleeve gastrectomy involves removing around 75% of your stomach, leaving a long narrow tube as your remaining stomach. This operation reduces the volume of the stomach, decreasing your ability to eat large volumes of food and drink at one time. There is also significant hunger suppression with the sleeve, possibly due to resection of Ghrelin cells with the removed part of the stomach.

This operation has been around in its own right for about 10 years and is associated with excellent short to medium term outcomes in terms of weight loss. Weight loss is fairly reliable and vomiting is minimal. The risks of the procedure are midway between banding and bypass.

The main downside of sleeve gastrectomy is the tendency for some patients to regain some of their weight after 2-3 years. This is more likely in patients with high starting BMI (e.g. > 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Issues with chronic reflux and long term prevalence of pre-cancerous Barrett's oesophagus are still under study.



*Below is a list of estimated complication rates associated with sleeve gastrectomy surgery. Note that these rates assume a good risk patient without previous weight loss surgery and within a fairly standard weight and BMI range for the clinic.*

Complication	Frequency	Comment
Death	1/2000 (0.05%)	
Bleed	2%	
Leak	<1%	Severe complication
Pulmonary Embolus	1%	Clot in the lungs which may cause respiratory failure or death
Open surgery required	<1%	
Reflux symptoms	Up to 25%	Occasionally severe
Stricture or Obstruction	1%	Excessive food intolerance which may be ongoing
Barrett's oesophagus	<i>unknown</i>	Possible long term increase in this pre-cancerous condition
Nutritional Deficiencies		Watch B12, Vit D, Calcium, Iron. Multivitamins required.
Failure to lose 25% of excess weight		5%
Failure to lose 50% of excess weight		25%

Sleeve gastrectomy is irreversible by any means. Less long term data available compared to banding and bypass. Note that like many weight loss operations some degree of weight regain may occur over the long term

Please sign and date to indicate your understanding of the above:

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_