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- Wireless
- Home
- Local News
- U.S. & World
- Weather
- Traffic
- Sports
- Business
- Consumer
- Health
- Entertainment
- Food
- Pets
- Water Cooler
- Seen on CBS4
- I-Team
- 4Your Money Team
- MOJO - Mobile Journalist
- Special Reports
- Campaign 08
- Politics
- DeFede
- Fast Facts
- City By City
- News Team
- Homes
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- Watch CBS Shows
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- Great Video
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- DTV Changes
- Community
- Neighbors 4 Neighbors
- Hurricanes
- My 33 TV
- EcoZone
- Services
- Careers
- Special Offers
- Lifestyle
- Beauty & Style
- Family
- New Baby
- Collections
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Dec 16, 2008 5:00 pm US/Eastern

New Weight-Loss Surgery Helps Keep It Off

New Surgical Tools Allow Surgeons To Reduce The Size Of The Pouch And Stomach Through The Patient's Mouth Without Making Cuts



Reporting **Cynthia Demos**
E-mail

MIAMI (CBS4) — Each year 200,000 people have gastric bypass surgery, and while about 15 percent of them will regain the weight, there's a new procedure helping those patients get back on track.

Suyin Marti is 42 years old, and had gastric bypass surgery 12 years ago. Her weight has been a lifelong battle.

"I gained weight and I lost it so many times over. A hundred pounds I gained and lost three times. Each time I would gain all that weight back and more," admitted Marti.

The weight is back again, and Marti blames family tragedy and the medication she's taking for depression contributing to her gain.

"Everybody always has the license to tell you how heavy you are but they don't know what it is to have this disease," Marti tearfully proclaimed.

Dr. Nestor de la Cruz Munoz is helping patients like Marti take back control of their lives by introducing them to the Rose procedure.

"It's a new procedure that we're going through the mouth rather than having to go through the abdomen with a camera and a transport system that allows us to put stitches in from the inside instead of from the outside," explained Dr. de la Cruz Munoz.

The Rose procedure restores the patient's pouch and stomach to match original post surgery sizes. That's important because scar tissue in the abdomen could complicate surgery for these patients.

Patients will spend one night in the hospital and wake up with a sore throat but no abdominal pain. They can return to normal activities in a day or two. Still, the doctor said patients still need to exercise and attend support groups for the entire process to work.

"We know that none of the surgeries cure obesity. They're just tools that you have to use. So if you don't use the tools correctly they're not going to work for you long term," warned Dr. de la Cruz Munoz.

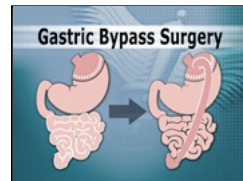
Marti is prepared to do what it takes to lose the weight and regain her health. "I'm hoping they can go ahead and do the revision and take out the band and fix the problem that I had originally and it will help me lose the weight," said Marti.

The procedure is not currently covered by insurance, and can cost up to \$12,000. Anyone interested in more information can call the office of Dr. de la Cruz Munoz at (305) 845-4385.

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"ROSE" procedure stands for Restorative Obesity Surgery, Endoscopic. CBS

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