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Beth Israel Medical Center Offers
Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES)
To Gastric Bypass Patients Who are Regaining Weight

*Beth Israel's Bariatric Surgery Team Among First in New York City to Offer StomaphyX
To Reduce the Size of Gastric Pouches That Have Stretched Over Time*

New York, NY (July 11, 2008) Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES), an emerging surgical technique that allows a surgeon access to the abdominal cavity through one of the body's natural orifices, is one of the hottest discussion topics among surgeons these days. And for good reason – proponents say the natural orifice approach, still in its infancy, could revolutionize surgery the way laparoscopic, or “keyhole,” surgery did 20 years ago.

The bariatric surgery team at Beth Israel Medical Center is one of the first in New York City to offer the pioneering StomaphyX® device to patients who have had previous gastric bypass surgery and are regaining weight. “In some weight loss surgery patients, the small gastric pouch we create during surgery can stretch over time and need to be reduced again. StomaphyX is revolutionizing the way we are able to perform revision surgery on our patients,” says Elliot Goodman, M.D., attending bariatric surgery at BIMC. “Until now, reducing a stretched gastric pouch was a big operation (2-3 hours), involved significant risk and required the patient to remain in the hospital for four to five days afterwards.” Gastric revision surgery is widely considered one of the most complex and dangerous types of surgery. Until now.

About the StomaphyX procedure:

The StomaphyX procedure, a surgical method of fastening tissue and creating large folds in the gastrointestinal tract without incisions, is performed safely, quickly and comfortably with considerably less downtime than traditional revision surgery. Performed transorally (through the mouth), the flexible StomaphyX device is lowered through the mouth into the stomach under the visualization of an endoscope (video camera), which is placed down the shaft of the device. Once inside the small gastric pouch that was created during the original gastric bypass surgery, a small section of the stomach wall is suctioned up into the StomaphyX device and fastened with a suture-like fastener creating a fold called a plication. As many as 10-20 plications may be created depending on the needs of the patient.

The procedure is performed under general anesthesia. Because it only takes about 20-30 minutes to perform, the patient is not exposed to anesthesia for nearly as long as during the traditional revision surgery. Because there are no incisions inside on the organs or outside on the skin, there is as reduced risk of incisional herniation, adhesions and scarring – typical risks of the traditional technique. Most patients can return to work the next day and are asked to restrict physical activity for the first week.

“Years ago, a gastric bypass revision surgery was a big operation that involved lots of risk and yielded a likelihood of 40-60 pounds of weight loss so when we looked at the risk benefit ratio, it often wasn’t worth performing,” says John Holup, M.D., associate director of bariatric surgery at Beth Israel. “With StomaphyX, the risk benefit ratio is much lower. We are thrilled to be leading the charge in New York City as one of the first to offer this option since NOTES is widely recognized as the next step in the evolution of minimally invasive techniques.”

Drs. Holup and Goodman have already performed several StomaphyX procedures and have upcoming cases on Thursday, July 17. If you are interested in attending a procedure and interviewing doc & patient, please contact Elizabeth Dowling in the public affairs office at: 212-523-4047.

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