

HEALTH – NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT OF OBESITY DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTRAGASTRIC AIR BALLOON

The Heliosphere intragastric balloon developed by Helioscopie weighs 30 grams and offers a real alternative to patients not wishing or not able to benefit from surgery for obesity.

Continuing on from the gastric band, Helioscopie, a French company based in Rhône Alpes, is committed to developing new products with a view to providing a response at the various stages of obesity. The Heliosphere intragastric balloon is aimed at people suffering from severe obesity, i.e. excess weight varying between 20 and 40kg.

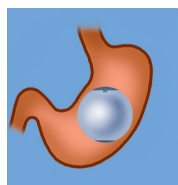


A gastric balloon of innovative design

The principle of the intragastric balloon is not new. The first balloon was produced in the United States at the end of the 1980s and was abandoned because of the multiple complications it engendered (migration by fracture, gastric ulceration or perforation) due to its poor design.

A liquid gastric balloon has existed for several years. It weighs about 600g and its use causes significant side effects in patients.

The Heliosphere intragastric balloon is totally innovative in its design. It is, in fact, filled with air and weighs less than 30g. Three years of research were necessary to perfect it and no less than 7 patents have been registered. The side effects described in the scientific literature (nausea, vomiting) have been reduced by 80%! The intragastric air balloon is much better tolerated by the patient.



Functioning of the Heliosphere intragastric balloon

The principle is to introduce the balloon into the stomach and then fill it with air so that it occupies part of the internal surface of the organ, near the mechanoreceptors for satiety. It is implanted via the natural pathways.

Implantation by the gastroenterologist

The implantation of the Heliosphere intragastric balloon is performed by a **previously trained gastroenterologist**, under general anaesthetic with endoscopic monitoring. The operation lasts less than an hour. Implantation is performed in the same conditions.

Duration of implantation

The duration of implantation of the Heliosphere intragastric balloon is 6 months.

Multi-disciplinary care of the patient during the implantation and after explantation

Within the context of the implantation of an intragastric balloon, the patient is cared for by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of the gastroenterologist, a nutritionist (or a dietician), and a psychologist. This team plays a major role in the loss of weight, stabilisation and cure of the patient. In fact, the causes of obesity are multiple and the patient must be cared for in a global manner.

Proven efficacy

The efficacy of the intragastric balloon in the non-surgical treatment of obesity was been recognised by the Agence Nationale d'Accréditation et d'évaluation en Santé (ANAES – National Agency for Health Accreditation and Evaluation) last November. The average loss of weight observed is between 15kg and 25kg.

Cost covered by the patient

At the moment, the intragastric balloon is not reimbursed by the Sécurité Sociale (NHS in UK, Medicaid in USA). Its cost is the responsibility of the patient. This cost is less than that of a week of thalassotherapy, for example.

Figures for obesity

Morbid obesity is a fatal illness causing more than 55,000 deaths per year (diabetes, hypertension, phlebitis, cardiovascular diseases, etc.).

About Helioscopie

Helioscopie is a French company based in Rhône-Alpes. It was created in 2000 and today has 50 personnel. The company, a leader in the treatment of obesity (gastric bands, dietary supplements), has progressively diversified and also manufactures implantable sites for nutrition and chemotherapy. Characteristics: strong investment in R & D, 13% of turnover (27 patents registered), and an international position, 60% of turnover coming from export. All Helioscopie products are designed and manufactured in France. Helioscopie received the Export Class 2004 trophy for Rhône-Alpes and the 2004 trophy for innovation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nord Isère.

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