

**Press release
Vienne, 12 October 2004**

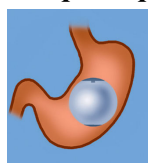
**NORD ISERE TROPHIES 2004
HELIOSCOPIE, WINNER OF THE TROPHY FOR INNOVATION**

The jury of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nord Isère have rewarded Hélioscopie for the development of an intragastric balloon making it possible for people suffering from obesity to lose weight.



The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nord Isère has awarded its Nord Isère Trophies, designed to encourage and distinguish companies performing in exemplary fashion, for the 7th consecutive year. Hélioscopie, which specialises in the medico-surgical treatment of obesity, has received the trophy for innovation for the development of an evolutionary intragastric balloon.

The principle of the “Heliosphere” intragastric balloon



The idea of the intragastric balloon is simple. It is to create volume in the stomach in order to cause the feeling of satiety quickly in the patient. In this way, due to the presence of the balloon, the patient eats less and loses weight without frustration.

Implantation takes place via the natural pathways and is performed under general anaesthetic by a gastroenterologist. It is explanted after 6 months to avoid the risk of erosion of the balloon, which is subject to aggression by the gastric juices, and the rupture of which could bring about an obstruction. The effect on weight loss is rapid and progressive and does not cause any dietary deficiency.

The development of the Heliosphere intragastric balloon

The principle of the intragastric balloon is simple but its development has required many years of research. Indeed, in order to be effective and perfectly tolerated, the intragastric balloon must be very light. Hélioscopie has developed a balloon consisting of a triple pouch inflated with air, which guarantees a good seal during the 6 months of implantation. The whole device weights 30g.

For whom is the Heliosphere intragastric balloon designed?

The Héliosphère intragastric balloon is designed for people suffering from severe obesity, i.e. excess weight varying between 25 and 35kg. It is a first solution in the fight against obesity before considering surgical intervention.

Nutritional constraints

Implantation of an intragastric balloon involves dietary constraints on several levels. In fact the presence of the balloon in the stomach forces the patient to eat slowly and to chew his/her food well. Moreover, the 6 months of the implantation should make it possible for the patient to learn to eat differently adhering to daily dietary hygiene, as advised by a nutritionist.

Press Contact: Florence Abily – 00 33 (0)4 74 16 19 14 or 00 33 (0)6 07 09 15 44

Press release and visuals on request

E-mail: fabily@helioscopie.fr

www.helioscopie.fr