



Taichung

**Gastric Contraction Surgery by
Weight Reduction Team
Save Life and Regain Health**

December 8, 2020

An overweight patient Ms. Yeh with diabetes and sleep apnea was scheduled for weight reduction surgery. Prior to surgery, her weight was a record high at 145 kg due to stress and over-eating. What's worse is that Yeh fell asleep during a pre-surgery examination and was rushed to the ICU. Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital Metabolism and Weight Loss Center medical team respected her family's desire to keep Yeh for a week for evaluation. Finally, surgery was successful and postoperative treatment reduced the patient Yeh's weight by 40 kg.

Dr. Lee Ming-Hsien, Director of the Metabolism and Weight Loss Center at Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, pointed out that 35 year-old and 160 cm tall patient Yeh was a case of congenital disorder and obesity. Congenital disorder causes ringworm (fungi infection), and the use of steroids results in obesity and eventually diabetes. The acquired dysfunction is caused by over-eating, bad eating and drinking habits as a result of stress, but also the respiratory dysfunction,



Accompanied by her father, Yeh returned to the clinic to thank Director Lee Ming-Hsien for helping her to lose weight successfully and a full recovery from the weight loss surgery.

sleep apnea and other serious obesity sequelae. Her parents were worried and hope to save her life through a weight reduction surgery.

Unexpectedly, Yeh increased eating before the operation, gained another 10 kg, and reached a new high of 145 kg in just two weeks. During the Weight Reduction Center team's preoperative visit, she fell into deep drowsiness, and was rushed to ICU for an intubation treatment. For the sake of their daughter, the family decided to proceed with a weight reduction operation.

Director Lee said Yeh spent seven days in the ICU and her condition was primed for surgery, but her waistline was still more than 55 inches. The laparoscopic surgery resected three small holes in the patient's abdomen



Director Lee Ming-Hsien led the team in performing the gastric contraction surgery on Yeh.

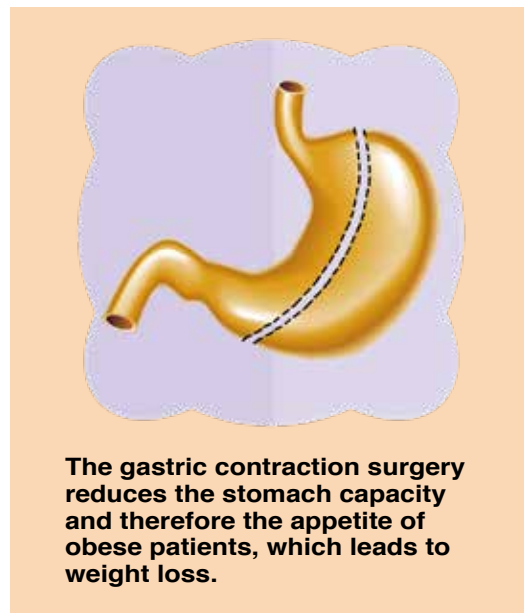
through which a stent was inserted through nearly 20 millimeters thick muscle and fat layers. After more than an hour of operation, patient was transferred to the ICU for close observation and soon followed by a successful discharge.

After the gastric contraction surgery, Yeh's stomach was reduced by about two-third. With dietary adjustment, she successfully lost 40 kg in three months. Her regular clothing became baggy and had to be replaced. "I feel sober and also have a goal for life," Yeh said cheerfully.

Director Lee explained that the gastric surgery reduced the stomach capacity. Therefore, a little food can achieve stomach fullness and enough to sustain a day's need of calories. The surgery reduces food intake by lowering

the appetite to achieve weight loss.

Obesity is increasing worldwide. Last year, at the Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital Metabolism and Weight Loss Center, over 300 weight-loss operations were successful to restore health and beauty to patients - a record high with zero mortality, zero complications, and zero leakage and infection rates. On December 12, 2020, Director Lee held the first Weight Loss Surgery Conference – a joint session at the four Tzu Chi Hospitals. Lee shared guidelines for precision and safety treatment with physicians from all regions of Taiwan in the field of weight loss. The goal is to exchange professional knowledge, enhance medical clinical research capabilities, and create better treatment and care.



The gastric contraction surgery reduces the stomach capacity and therefore the appetite of obese patients, which leads to weight loss.