



*At Aria's Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery, patients who are not candidates for surgery continue to receive comprehensive care, including guidance on diet and lifestyle modifications as well as behavioral counseling. In addition, the Center tracks individual treatment status and can re-evaluate it at any point during care.*



*Aria invites individuals with obesity to come to the Center to meet other patients, including those who have already undergone the adjustable stomach-band procedure.*

The Center is located at  
Aria Health's Bucks Campus:

**Aria Health Comprehensive Center  
for Bariatric Surgery**

Oxford Valley Medical Plaza (OVMP)  
240 Middletown Boulevard, Suite 101C  
Langhorne, PA 19047

Consultations also available at  
Aria Health's Torresdale Campus:

**Aria Health - Torresdale Campus  
Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery**

Medical Office Building, Suite 125  
3998 Red Lion Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

**Call us:**

**215-824-4559 or 1-877-808-ARIA (2742)**



COMPREHENSIVE CENTER FOR

# Bariatric Surgery

Weight-Loss Counseling, Evaluation, & Surgery



ADVANCED MEDICINE. PERSONAL CARE.™

## Yes, there is a cure.

Obesity *is* treatable. And solvable.

It's dangerous and debilitating – but fortunately medical solutions for this condition have arrived in recent years that can transform lives. Patients with obesity can undergo surgery, with a minimal hospital stay and quick recovery, that will lead to dramatically reduced weight.

We now know that some patients simply cannot control their weight through lifestyle changes alone. Experienced bariatrics specialists have the skills to identify these individuals. Careful evaluation shows which patients need bariatric surgery, an intervention now recognized as a cure to treat obesity, and for obesity complicated by diabetes.

## Lose now, win later: Drop down to a safer weight, for good.

Aria Health's Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery provides all of the knowledge and experience needed for exceptional care of this kind. Patients benefit from treatment at a center with complete expertise in minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, and a full complement of diagnostic and support services.



## Treating every patient responsibly & effectively.

A highly professional, full-service, bariatrics center offers patients many advantages:

- staff members who understands the challenges that individuals with obesity face, and who seek to responsibly evaluate their health condition and history;
- help for patients who need additional conservative, noninvasive, lifestyle solutions, and definitive recommendation for surgery for others;
- and a provider group that will give patients a lifetime of care, for a long-term solution to their condition.

Aria's Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery knows how to help patients with serious obesity and complications, including those who have diabetes (a condition that affects a majority of the center's patients). Office and consulting personnel include highly trained physicians, nurses, dietitians, and psychologists – supported by competent, helpful administrative office staff.

Recommendation for surgery must come through medical consensus, and patients must attempt or have attempted non-invasive weight loss first. Patients must agree to appropriate weight-loss goals, and demonstrate an ability to adhere to an appropriate diet.

Aria's Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery guides each individual to a customized solution that is right for him or her.

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[www.ARIAHEALTH.org](http://www.ARIAHEALTH.org)

## Special success with a stomach band.

In offering surgical options, Aria's Center puts special emphasis on placing adjustable gastric bands laparoscopically. This approach requires only small incisions in the abdomen and a short hospital stay. It brings faster recovery and less discomfort and scarring. It is FDA-approved and rapidly expanding in use. The specialists can easily adjust the implanted band or, if need be, remove it at a later time. Many patients prefer the stomach-band approach over surgical restructuring of the stomach.



Only the small banded-off section of the stomach needs to fill to generate a feeling of fullness, each time the patient eats. The band limits the amount of food the stomach can hold and slows the passage of food. Injecting saline solution into the small access port under the skin adjusts the amount of restriction.

Image courtesy: Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

Patients enjoy significant weight loss in the first few months after surgery – and typically achieve their new weight in the first year after the operation. They are often pleasantly surprised at feeling more satiety than hunger after smaller meals, along with the sensation of fullness.

## Bariatric surgery helps to renew the quality of patients' lives.

Successful bariatric surgery of this type can make a dramatic difference in health factors associated with obesity. For most patients, the procedure resolves type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, reflux, and high cholesterol. It also improves their personal level of energy, mobility, and self-confidence.

# Complete care from a respected group.

The highly competent staff at Aria's Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery has expertise that brings effectiveness and safety to patient care. The Center's bariatrics professionals work closely with patients to monitor progress after surgery, helping each patient to achieve steady weightloss to a reasonable target weight. This may include adjustments to the stomach band and help via support groups, psychological counseling, and dietary modifications. (Band adjustments are an easy step, requiring only a needle insertion to increase or decrease the saline pressure in the band system.) Because the Center maintains an ongoing relationship with its patients, the staff can help them maintain their target weight over subsequent years.

For this type of support, experience is important, just as it is for surgery itself. Together, the accomplished, board-certified physicians in Aria's bariatric service have a record of more than 40 years of successfully providing general and laparoscopic surgery:



Director

**Luca Giordano, MD, FACS**, Director of Bariatric Surgery/ Bariatric Services, and Head of the Section on Minimally Invasive Surgery, at Aria Health, earned his medical degree at the University of Rome, did his residency in general surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center, in Philadelphia, and completed a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at Cedar Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. A highly experienced surgeon, Dr. Giordano served as Chief of Surgery at Musumecchi GECAS Hospital in Catania, Italy, before coming to Aria. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgery and has been certified by the American Board of Surgery since 2003. Dr. Giordano also serves as a clinical assistant professor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College.



**Alfred Bogucki, MD, FACS**, earned his medical degree, and completed his internship and residency, at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He completed a fellowship in trauma surgery at Aria Health and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Bogucki specializes in advanced laparoscopic procedures and has been an attending physician practicing general surgery at Aria health since 1993.



**Mark LiBassi, MD, FACS**, earned his medical degree, and completed his internship and residency, at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, where he served as chief surgical resident. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. As an Aria general surgeon, Dr. LiBassi conducts laparoscopic surgery as one of his areas of specialization.

## Aria Health's Bariatric Surgery Support Team

*Psychologist:* Rosanne Edenhart-Pepe, PhD

*Registered Dietitians:* Jenny Koscho, RD, LDN, and Kathleen Franklin, RD, LDN