

HEADLINE (Under 22 Words – Include keyword phrase(s) with region within first 65 characters):

HOUSTON BARIATRIC SURGEON CLIFTON THOMAS SAVES PATIENTS MONEY BY PERFORMING GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY IN MEXICO

Keyword(s):

Gastric bypass surgery (Houston)

Lap band surgery (Mexico and Houston)

Dr. Clifton E. Thomas

Dr. Clifton Thomas

Summary

Dr. Clifton E. Thomas, a bariatric surgeon in Houston, offers patients the opportunity to undergo lap band surgery in Mexico, a decision that can save patients thousands of dollars. Dr. Thomas travels to Mexico with his patients, performs the lap band surgery personally and stays in the same hotel, ensuring his patients receive the highest quality of medical care.

Body

As obesity has become an increasing problem in the United States, gastric bypass surgery has been on the rise; however, the high cost of the procedure prevents many morbidly obese people from undergoing the surgery. This is why Houston-based bariatric surgeon Dr. Clifton E. Thomas began offering lap band surgery in Mexico, which can save patients thousands of dollars.

While Americans may travel outside the country to see non-American doctors and procure less expensive healthcare, Dr. Thomas' plan is different. He goes to Mexico with each patient, performs the lap band surgery personally at a Mexican hospital and stays with his patient at the same hotel. He then provides follow-ups with the patient in either his Houston or Nacogdoches office.

"I've been performing lap band surgery in Mexico for a year now, and all the patients I've taken have been comfortable getting the operation there," Dr. Clifton said. "They all highly recommend it because it's safe, it saves them a few thousand dollars and it's an enjoyable experience for the spouse or family that comes with them."

When the patient first arrives in Mexico, he or she is met by hospital personnel and transported to the hospital. Dr. Thomas typically performs the lap band surgery on the day of arrival, and the patient spends the night in the hospital. The next morning, the patient is transported to the hotel, and the following day, he or she is ready to fly home. The gastric bypass surgery is performed at Cornerstone Hospital in Puerto Vallarta, and while the hotel varies, patients have stayed with Dr. Thomas at both the Canto Del Sol and the Melia. Airfare, transfers and the hotel are built into the all-inclusive price, which includes free follow-up visits at Dr. Thomas' Houston or Nacogdoches offices for one year.

"I've been doing gastrointestinal surgery for years, and I understand that frequent follow-ups are important for the success of gastric banding patients. It really helps increase the success rate of lap band surgery," Dr. Thomas said.

Although Dr. Thomas currently performs only lap band surgery in Mexico, he will begin performing other types of gastric bypass surgery in the country by the end of the year.

Dr. Clifton E. Thomas is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons and the American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

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