Quality Gastro-Esophageal Care

Laparoscopic Fundoplication

Laparoscopic fundoplication is the most well studied surgical procedure for the treatment of GERD. A small portion of the stomach is used to reinforce the natural reflux barrier by wrapping it around the bottom of the esophagus and suturing it in place. This will prevent the backflow of bile and stomach contents into the esophagus. Potential side effects include bloating, trouble swallowing, and an inability to belch or vomit due to the newly reinforced valve. It is important that a surgeon who possesses significant training and experience does this procedure to minimize or prevent these side effects. Our surgeons typically recommend this operation for those patients with large hiatal hernias or advanced GERD.

Magnetic Lower Esophageal Sphincter Augmentation

Magnetic lower esophageal sphincter augmentation also reinforces the natural reflux barrier at the bottom of the esophagus, but does it in a slightly different way. It consists of a string of magnetic beads that are placed around the lower esophageal sphincter that opens and closes using magnetic forces in response to food. In addition, the device will resist the natural forces from the stomach to prevent GERD, but can be overcome in instances where belching or vomiting need to occur.

The procedure for implantation is much shorter than the fundoplication because the stomach anatomy is not disrupted. In cases of a hiatal hernia, the device can still be implanted after the hiatal hernia is repaired.

Other Options

There has been a significant effort to establish endoscopic techniques for treating GERD, but have fallen short when compared to the superior outcomes of magnetic lower esophageal sphincter augmentation and fundoplications. These procedures are called endoscopic partial fundoplication and radiofrequency energy delivery to lower esophageal sphincter. Although immediate improvements in symptoms have been shown in some studies, the durability of these procedures beyond one year is compromised and symptom recurrence is common. BSW Center for Advanced Surgery will consider using these procedures in special cases to avoid patient dissatisfaction.

Quality of Life Improvement

At BSW Center for Advanced Surgery, the goal of GERD treatment is to improve quality of life and relieve life altering chronic symptoms. All patients are managed under a research registry to track the progress of patients and detect any aberrations in their quality of life. GERD is a disease that needs to be closely managed for optimal outcomes. Extensive research at our facility has shown symptom relief and patient satisfaction with magnetic lower esophageal sphincter augmentation and fundoplications. Patients can count on a three year 85 percent or better rate of GERD symptom remission allowing patients to be off all anti-reflux medications. In addition, they experience a drastic improvement in their quality of life, which allows patients to eat the food they enjoy, get a more restful night of sleep, and rid themselves of heartburn and regurgitation.

Textbook Contributions

The surgeons at BSW Center for Advanced Surgery have contributed to several textbooks that are used worldwide for teaching and for continuing surgical education of practicing surgeons. Referrals come from a national patient population as we lead the way in innovation, research, and excellent patient outcomes. These contributions are a staple of the leadership in esophageal and gastric diseases which is the focus of the practice.

To refer a patient, call 972.817.6050. For more information, visit SurgerySpecialistsDallas.com.
Esophageal and Gastric Cancer

Marc A. Ward, MD

A number of minimally invasive surgery techniques have been developed to treat both early and locally advanced esophageal cancer. These techniques include both endoscopic and laparoscopic resection methods, and the use of which is highly dependent on the oncologic stage of the tumor. As experts in these cancers, our surgeons are adept at both prevention and treatment.

Our surgeons utilize high-definition endoscopy to diagnose and examine these cancers, in addition, based on industry reports, publications and research, we are the only providers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to offer the full range of organ-sparing, advanced therapeutic endoscopic options. These treatments range from radiofrequency ablation to endoscopic resection and are used to treat both suspicious lesions as well as early cancers.

Recently, BSW Center for Advanced Surgery introduced endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) into its repertoire in order to expand the range of lesions amenable to endoscopic resection. This technique allows large lesions to be removed endoscopically and recurrence rates following this method are as low as 0.2 percent. When esophagectomy or gastrectomy are required, our surgeons perform these operations laparoscopically because they are usually associated with faster recovery times, less operative blood loss, and lower morbidity rates. We emphasize oncologic principles and long-term quality of life by utilizing all of the minimally invasive techniques available to treat these complex disease processes.

Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence

BSW Center for Advanced Surgery is an accredited Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center, part of Baylor Scott & White Health. In order to obtain this distinction, we undergo a rigorous reporting and inspection process to evaluate whether we are providing quality and effective operations in the treatment of morbid obesity. To maintain this distinction we do well over 200 operations per year.

There is a close association between obesity and the increased incidence of obesity-related comorbidities, mortality, quality of life, and increased health care expenditures. As a result, obesity has become a worldwide public health priority. To date, the surgical treatment of obesity (bariatric surgery) has been demonstrated to be the only effective means of significant and sustainable weight loss in morbidly obese patients (BMI > 35).

At BSW Center for Advanced Surgery, we specialize in both primary and revisional bariatric surgery. Depending on a complete evaluation that includes nutrition, psychology, and surgical consultations, we tailor our surgical recommendation to each individual patient. Depending on the patient’s nutritional status, obesity-related comorbidities (diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, gastrointestinal reflux disease, etc.), and preoperative BMI, we can recommend an operation that offers the patient the best chance at achieving at achieving his or her weight loss goals and maintaining the weight loss.

The most common procedures we recommend to our patients are the sleeve gastrectomy, and the roux-en-y gastric bypass. Both of these operations are performed using up-to-date minimally invasive surgical techniques and can be done either laparoscopically or robotically. By employing these techniques, we are able to provide our patients effective weight loss, a better quality of life, and resolution of their obesity-related comorbidities usually with minimal pain and enhanced recovery.

Research at Baylor Scott & White Center for Advanced Surgery

Innovation

Our group has an extensive history in using emerging technologies to offer patients quality, minimally invasive treatment options. In addition, we have extensive experience in procedure and instrument development.

Areas of Expertise

We are dedicated to providing quality healthcare. Our surgeons focus on the following fields of surgery:

- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- Hiatal and paraesophageal hernia repair
- Achalasia and other esophageal motility disorders
- Gastric cancer and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST)
- Barrett’s esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma
- Complex abdominal wall reconstruction, ventral and inguinal hernia repair
- Bariatric surgery

Active Participation in the Medical Community

Our surgeons hold leadership roles at multiple Baylor Scott & White hospitals in the Dallas–Fort Worth area as well as in regional and national specialty societies.

Education

We work extensively with general surgery residents and medical students at BSW Center for Advanced Surgery. In addition, our surgeons are instructors for several procedures using certain medical devices and travel regularly to share their knowledge with these procedures.

The Clinic at Baylor Scott & White Center for Advanced Surgery

When patients are referred to BSW Center for Advanced Surgery, they are welcomed by an entire team that will be intimately involved in their healthcare. Our staff interacts with patients regularly to ensure that all questions are answered and to help patients understand why in some cases a comprehensive preoperative workup is needed. Our Advanced Physician Provider (APP) is a vital component to the team both in the inpatient and outpatient setting. The APP will be there to help explain any potential surgeries preoperatively, participate in patient care in the immediate post-operative period, and be available to answer any questions that patients might have once they are discharged from the hospital. Drs. Leeds, Ward, and Davis are all fellowship trained board-certified surgeons who are committed to providing excellent patient care.

Their philosophy of care is to get patients back to a quality of life that is better than when they first meet them.