

MEET RICHARD S. WILKENFELD, M.D., WITH TEXAS GASTRIC BANDING

BY PAMELA HAMMONDS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY K4



For over 27 years Richard S. Wilkenfeld, M.D., has been practicing in The Woodlands/Conroe area and is one of the most experienced laparoscopic surgeons in Texas. Dr. Wilkenfeld lives in the community where he works, allowing him to really get to know his patients, yet he sees patients from all over the country.

Currently practicing general and bariatric (weight-loss) surgery, he was the first general surgeon in Montgomery County to perform laparoscopic gallbladder surgery and Lap-Bands. He currently performs laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Band surgery (Lap-Band and Realize bands), Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy, Gastric Imbrication (Greater Curvature Plication) and open gastric bypass surgery. He is affiliated with the American Institute of Gastric Banding/True Results, the world's largest provider of outpatient lap band surgery.

Personalized care is the foundation of his practice as Dr. Wilkenfeld and his staff guide people through their entire weight-loss journeys with 24-hour accessibility. Patients see Dr. Wilkenfeld for all their adjustments and follow-up appointments as opposed to a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant, as common in most other bariatric practices. "It's important that I provide the very best healthcare and personalized service possible," he said. "That starts with nutritional counseling and continues as we help patients make the lifestyle changes necessary to successfully lose weight while maintaining muscle mass and long-term weight loss."

Recently he and his wife started the Texas Gastric Bariatric Foundation to raise funds for weight-loss surgery for those who have no other means of obtaining surgical treatment for their obesity. And all his patients can attend free support groups, workshops and other activities offered by the practice.

Dr. Wilkenfeld received his medical degree from the University Catholic of Louvain, Belgium, and completed a surgery residency at St. Johns Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He completed a fellowship in cardiovascular surgery under Dr. Michael E. DeBakey at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.

"To see my patients' smiles when they lose weight and look and feel better is fantastic," said Dr. Wilkenfeld. 📍

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