



Verdugo Hills
HOSPITAL

News

For Immediate Release

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Verdugo Hills Hospital Offers Monthly Bariatric Support Meetings

(GLENDALE, CA – March 20, 2009) – Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) offers free bariatric/weight-loss support meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month, from 6 – 8 pm in the hospital’s Council Room, located on the 4th floor lobby. Upcoming support meeting will be held on April 1. The bariatric support meetings are led by bariatric surgeon Ara Keshishian, M.D., F.A.C.S., who performs weight-loss surgery at VHH.

VHH offers the Gastric Reduction Duodenal Switch and the Lap Band® procedure to assist individuals suffering from obesity in their quest for weight loss and better health. The Duodenal Switch surgery generates weight loss by restricting the amount of food that can be eaten through a reduction in stomach size. As a result, the amount of food that is absorbed into the body is limited through a re-routing of the intestines, and by a metabolic effect induced by manipulating intestinal hormones as a result of intestinal re-routing.

During Lap Band® surgery, a gastric band is inserted around the top of the stomach in order to reduce the volume of food the stomach will hold (gastric banding). This procedure curbs hunger, which eventually leads to significant weight loss. Dr. Keshishian also performs revision weight-loss surgery at VHH. With different long-term results, some weight-loss surgeries can be considered “a failure” to those patients who have regained their weight or have not lost enough weight after surgery. As a result, revision of gastric bypass or other weight-loss surgical procedures are also offered. For more information about the types of weight-loss surgeries offered or to inquire about the support meetings, please contact 800-816-6647.

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include Fast-Track emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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