

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES OF
NORTHERN VIRGINIA
(GANV) FIRST IN STATE TO OFFER
OBALON™ – NON-SURGICAL,
FDA-APPROVED WEIGHT LOSS SYSTEM**



Jeremias Tan, MD

Ivan Harnden, MD

(FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA) According to the National Institute of Health, more than 35% of Americans are obese.¹ The Obalon Balloon System is the first and only swallowable, FDA-approved, non-surgical, intragastric 3-balloon system for weight loss. Gastroenterology Associates of Northern Virginia (GANV) is the first healthcare practice in Virginia to offer the Obalon™ weight loss system.

“Obalon is a concierge health and wellness service offered at our comprehensive care center in Fairfax,” Teresa Strausbaugh, Chief Financial Officer, said. “Utilizing clinically proven technology, our Board-certified gastroenterologists, Dr. Jeremias Tan and Dr. Ivan Harnden, provide concierge gastroenterology care to our patients struggling with weight loss.” On November 14, 2018, Dr. Tan and Dr. Harnden, will be hosting an informational seminar at 3028 Javier Road, Suite 500 Fairfax, VA 22031. Due to limited seating, RSVP is required through email to aburke@novagi.com.

The Obalon™ Balloon System is a 6-month treatment for adult patients who are 30 to 100 pounds overweight. Gradually over 3 months, 3-lightweight balloons, occupy space in a patient’s stomach. Coupled with a nutrition and exercise program, patients eat less which facilitates weight loss.

“Reducing BMI can reduce patients’ residual health risks,” Dr. Tan, Gastroenterology Specialist said. “Offering Obalon locally helps our patients maintain privacy and convenient access to a safe outpatient procedure, while improving long-term quality of life.” Placement of the Obalon Balloon does not require sedation and typically takes less than 10 minutes at the GANV-Fairfax clinic. Most patients return to normal activities with little or no downtime. Studies show maintaining a healthy body weight can contribute to a reduction in the development of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension and many forms of cancer.

In September 2016 the FDA approved the Obalon™ Balloon Weight Loss System, ensuring its safety and efficacy. FDA approval was based on a successful, 7-year Six Month Adjunctive Weight Reduction Therapy (S.M.A.R.T) clinical trial. The S.M.A.R.T. trial demonstrated twice the total weight loss vs. diet and exercise alone when combined with a moderate diet and behavior modification program. Unlike other products on the market, Obalon floats to the top of the stomach to provide the patient with the sensation of feeling full, which helps to reduce the urge to overeat – no more feeling starved to lose weight!

Obalon candidates must be at least 22 years of age, with a Body Mass Index (BMI) between 30 – 40 kg/m² with no prior history of weight loss surgery to qualify. Complete patient labeling, and full safety information is available at the manufacturer website, Obalon.com. For questions regarding Obalon, a concierge health and wellness service line at Gastroenterology Associates of Northern Virginia please contact Ande Burke at aburke@novagi.com or visit MyGANV.com.