1. **What happens to the lower part of the stomach that is bypassed?**

   In some surgical procedures, the stomach is left in place with intact blood supply, in some cases it may shrink a bit and its lining (the mucosa) may deteriorate, but for the most part it remains unchanged. The lower stomach still contributes to the function of the intestine even though it does not receive or process food. It provides basic factors necessary to absorb Vitamin B12 and contributes to hormone balance and motility of the intestines in ways that are not entirely known.

2. **How big will my stomach pouch really be in the long run?**

   This can vary by surgical procedure and surgeon. In the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, the stomach pouch is created at one ounce or less in size (15-20 cc). In the first few months it is rather stiff due to natural surgical inflammation. About 6-12 months after surgery, the stomach pouch can expand and will be become more expandable as swelling subsides. Many patients end up with a meal capacity of 3-5 ounces.

3. **What will the staples do inside my abdomen? Is it okay in the future to have an MRI test? Will I set off metal detectors in airports?**

   The staples used on the stomach and the intestines are very tiny in comparison to the staples you will have in your skin or staples you use in the office. Each staple is a tiny piece of titanium so small it is hard to see other than as a tiny bright spot. Because the metals used (titanium) are inert in the body, most people are not allergic to staples and they usually do not cause any problems in the long run. The staple materials are also non-magnetic, which means that they will not be affected by MRI. The staples will not set off airport metal detectors.