

One hundred percent result



A ten-year tale of affliction was ended from one day to the next with a minor operation. Bettina Graf has every reason to beam.

It started with recurring sore throats, and each time Bettina Graf thought she was coming down with flu. She often had to cancel appointments because she thought she might infect others. When, in addition to constant hoarseness and scratching in her throat, her sore throat appeared weekly, her family doctor suspected an allergic reaction. However, the examinations did not reveal any allergies, so she was referred to an ENT specialist.

Because Bettina Graf constantly felt a lump in her throat and always had a very unpleasant taste in her mouth, she got up to ten times every night to brush her teeth and use mouthwash to get rid of the unpleasant taste in her mouth. As her teeth became more and more sensitive, her dentist said that the problems could be from stomach acid flowing up into her mouth. He recommended that she put a splint over her teeth at night to protect them from the stomach acid.

The ENT doctor also suspected it could be reflux. Bettina Graf was given acid blocker tablets from then on, but they did nothing. Finally, three years ago, the reflux

was confirmed by measuring the acidity of the stomach in the oesophagus. The family doctor thought she should have an anti-reflux operation, especially to stop the bronchial tubes from being affected by the rising stomach acid.

The patient was hesitant because she had read a lot of controversial articles about the classic anti-reflux operation, the fundoplication. Swallowing difficulties and especially chronic flatulence are frequent and very unpleasant consequences. It was only when Bettina Graf was informed about the new method with the RefluxStop implant by Dr Alessandro Wildisen from the Lucerne Sursee Cantonal Hospital that she agreed to have the operation. The implant was inserted via keyhole surgery, and since that day she has been completely free of complaints, without any side effects. "In the months before the operation, I could only eat porridge, but now I can eat everything again and can finally enjoy a glass of wine or a coffee. The implant is my good friend, the salvation from my long suffering. I am enormously relieved."

Put an end to acid regurgitation and heartburn



A small operation ended 15 years of suffering. Hugo Grünig tells how reflux almost destroyed his lungs and what finally helped him.

The medical records document a long course of suffering, the sole cause of which was reflux. Pulmonary endoscopies, head X-rays, decades of taking medicines that did not help. In Hugo Grünig's case, the reflux from the stomach not only reached the oesophagus, but also the lungs via the nasal cavities and sinuses. A chronic inflammation of the respiratory tract and constant coughing up of bloody pus plagued him in the worst way. "At the fitness centre, they asked me to stop exercising at the busy times."

It all started about 15 years ago with occasional acid regurgitation. "I'm not the kind of person who runs straight to the doctor, but it was disgusting." The ENT doctor tried to get the problems under control with an operation of the nasal and frontal sinuses, without success. "All the examinations, operations and therapies were medical treading in place," says Hugo Grünig in retrospect.

When a bronchoscopy revealed traces of stomach acid in the lungs, a gastroscopy was ordered, and a diaphragmatic hernia was found. However, a diaphragmatic hernia operation, i.e. fundoplication, was not recommended because of the side effects and the rather unfavourable long-term results. Instead, the dosage of acid blockers was increased to the maximum. Nevertheless, it became worse and worse, until the doctor said he was at the end of his rope.

A small implant brought salvation

"When I heard about the RefluxStop™ surgery, I immediately contacted Dr Borbély. I had the operation on January 21, 2021, and immediately felt much better. Today I am completely symptom-free, without any reflux or heartburn. My airways are finally free of stomach acid and can heal."



RefluxStop™ is sensational for me



A small implant freed Kurt Bösch from his long-standing reflux. If he had to have the procedure again, he would do it in an instant.

By chance, when Kurt Bösch saw a TV programme about acid reflux, he was immediately intrigued. "The programme featured a man who had exactly the same problems I was suffering from. This patient had already had two operations for reflux using the classic method, fundoplication, which did not bring the relief he had hoped for. "When he explained on the programme how the operation with RefluxStop finally put an end to his suffering, I knew immediately that I wanted that too." Kurt Bösch had suffered from reflux for years, he could only sleep with his upper body elevated.

The rising stomach acid also caused him to have a chronic sore throat and a constant need to clear his throat. He was unable to digest many foods and drinks and could only eat very slowly. Nevertheless, he was often plagued by bloating and an uncomfortable feeling of fullness. "Waking up every morning with stomach acid in my mouth was a nightmare."

After numerous examinations, the ear, nose and throat specialist diagnosed reflux and prescribed gastric acid blockers. The doctor informed Kurt Bösch that he would have to take two pills a day for the rest of his life. "That gave me a lot to think about. When I learned that there was a procedure that could spare me such medication, I immediately contacted Professor Schöb."

Before the operation, thorough examinations were carried out. The acid level in the oesophagus was also measured for 24 hours. "Just 14 days after the operation, everything was back to normal for me. Lying flat in bed and being able to eat and drink everything, that's sensational for me!" Many people in Kurt Bösch's group of friends would also complain about similar problems with reflux. "All I can say is that you should definitely discuss this procedure with your doctor!"

Many years of reflux are finally over



Charlotte Witzke recounts her ordeal. And a small implant.

Actually, she is a lady with a zest for life. But the acid reflux made eating miserable for her. It all started more than ten years ago. Foods would regularly come up from her stomach all the way into her mouth, even while standing or sitting. "I felt like a ruminant," she says laughing, "mashed potatoes and veal patties would keep coming back up three or four times during the afternoon."

A daily pill of acid blocker helped Charlotte Witzke keep the burning sensation of pain in her oesophagus under control. This is because, besides food remnants, reflux also causes the transport of corrosive stomach acid, and this stomach acid causes considerable damage.

The sensitive mucosa in the oesophagus is particularly affected, but the vocal cords and teeth can also suffer damage. The stomach acid sometimes reaches the lungs, which can lead to asthma and other chronic respiratory problems.

Charlotte Witzke had originally come to terms with the fact that food residues were coming up. In June 2020, during a

routine colonoscopy, she asked the gastroenterologist to examine her stomach as well. It was very clear that the oesophagus was severely affected by the acid coming from the stomach. The cause of the reflux also became apparent during this examination. A diaphragmatic hernia, which had caused the sphincter between the stomach and the oesophagus to slip up over the diaphragm. This meant that the sphincter could no longer function properly.

Years of taking acid blockers failed to prevent the damage to the oesophagus, because pills can't fix a mechanically induced problem, but rather alleviate the symptoms at best. That acid blockers are actually only useful for a short-term therapy is something easily forgotten nowadays.

The gastroenterologist referred the patient to the Hirslanden BeauSite Clinic, where Prof. Dr. Jörg Zehetner inserted the RefluxStop implant in a minimally invasive procedure on July 23, 2020. "Since the procedure, nothing has ever come up again. I would have this surgery again in a heartbeat."