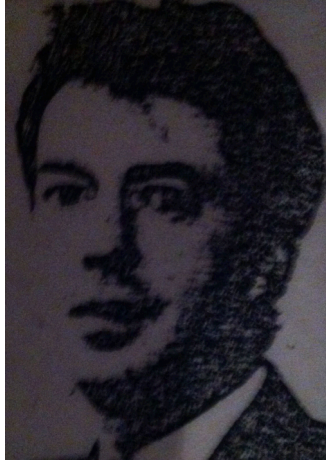


Irish Doctor Pioneers new Stomach Op

An Irish doctor has pioneered a new technique for reducing stomach size in chronically overweight people.

Consultant surgeon Patrick Leahy has developed a revolutionary method of stapling the side of the stomach without cutting open the patient, according to the Irish Medical Times. Use of sophisticated laser-like equipment means the operation can be done in just 15 minutes and that the patient is only left with puncture marks rather than major scarring. Already, one Irish woman has successfully undergone the operation which leads to a reduction in appetite and thereby a loss of excess weight. Hospitals all over the world and particularly in America are now expressing an interest in the operation



technique, according to Mr Leahy. "Up to now surgery was offered as a last resort because the only surgery we could offer was dangerous. It was a very big operation and people died from it," he explained.

Under the new technique, patients can resume eating within a day and leave the hospital within three days. They can also return to work quickly.

"The whole idea is that afterwards they become satisfied much quicker on a smaller amount of food, while eating an adequate amount to keep nourished," Mr Leahy explained.

The operation is suitable for people for whom dietary management and other methods have failed.

"In Ireland, there wont be a huge demand for this because unfortunately most people here are thinnish. But in America and certain European countries, it is a problem," said Mr Leahy, who has been working with lasers, laparoscopes and using endoscopic techniques for several years in Ireland and abroad.

He is now expecting patients to travel from America to the Blackrock Clinic to have the stapling carried out. He will also train other surgeons in the technique