

## GENTLE SURGERY FOR HEARTBURN

### **If drugs are no longer helping there is a gentle alternative:**

More than 40% of people once a month, and a quarter of people daily have: acid reflux, sometimes accompanied by cramp-like pain behind the breast bone, swallowing difficulty, globus sensation, increased saliva production, hoarseness and chronic cough, culminating in asthma attacks.

Apart from the suffering of the patients and the enormous cost of drugs, heartburn, or reflux oesophagitis also entails the danger of a cancer: oesophageal carcinoma. For this reason proper diagnosis and treatment are absolutely necessary. As well as oesophagoscopy and gastroscopy, measurement of the muscular activity of the oesophagus and 24-hour acid measurement are required.

If drug treatment is unsuccessful there is a “gentle” surgical alternative: the minimally invasive method, or laparoscopy (also called “keyhole surgery”).

The advantage of this method is not just the more attractive cosmetic outcome but also the more favourable postoperative course and shorter hospital stay.

Not least, it avoids long-term, cost-intensive drug therapy.

### **Information:**

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