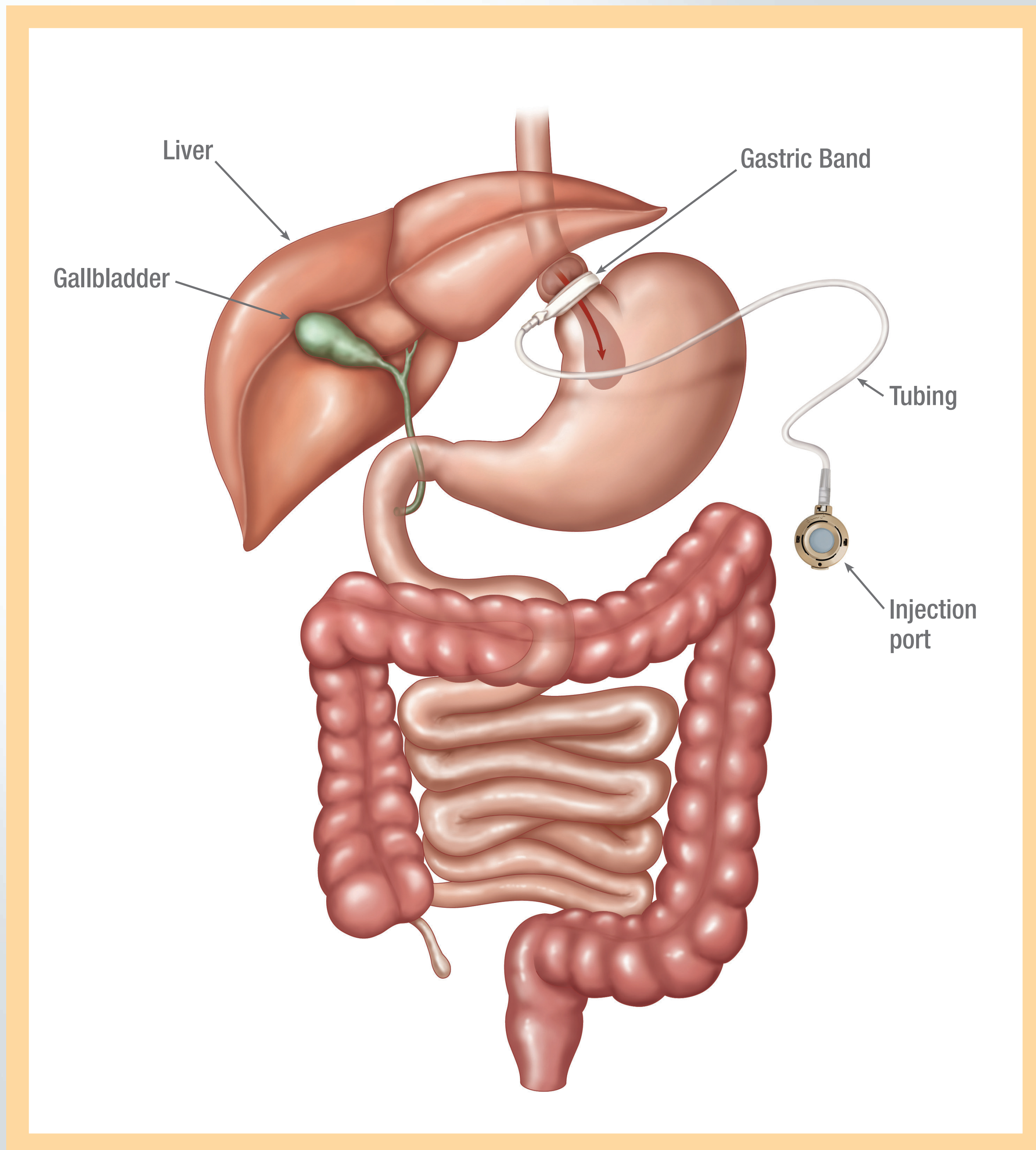


# Gastric Banding



## Procedure Overview

The gastric band is placed around the uppermost part of the stomach to create a small upper pouch and a lower stomach. The port is fastened in the abdomen about 2 inches below the rib cage on the left or right side. Thin, flexible tubing connects the band and the port.

There are risks with any surgery, such as adverse reactions to medications, problems with anesthesia, problems breathing, bleeding, blood clots, inadvertent injury to nearby organs and blood vessels, even death. Bariatric surgery has its own risks, including failure to lose weight, nutritional or vitamin deficiencies, and weight regain. Patients should consult their physicians to determine if this procedure is appropriate for their condition.