

HEMORRHOID BANDING PROCEDURE

PAINLESS HEMORROID TREATMENT



**Don't let
painful
hemorrhoids
keep you from
enjoying life
to the
fullest!**

Hemorrhoid banding ligation
is a painless non-surgical
in-office procedure.

About 10 million Americans suffer from hemorrhoids, which are swollen veins in the rectum or around the anus. External hemorrhoids more commonly cause symptoms of pain and itching when irritated. Internal hemorrhoids generally are painless but can cause bleeding. Colorectal cancer can also cause rectal bleeding, so you need to see a doctor to rule out cancer or other serious causes of rectal bleeding.

COLON CANCER FACTS: DID YOU KNOW?

A colonoscopy screening takes just 15 minutes and could save your life. Regular screenings are recommended for everyone 50 years and older. Polyps detected before they become cancerous are the best way to prevent colon cancer.

Whether you're seeking prevention, diagnosis, treatment or cure, call GI Specialists.

We're raising
medical science
to an Art.

The *Art* of Patient Care

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Hemorrhoids, also called piles, are swollen and inflamed veins which occur in and around the anus and rectum. By themselves, hemorrhoids are rarely serious, but they can be extremely troublesome. A sometimes embarrassing topic of discussion, hemorrhoids are one of the most common ailments. By age 50, about half of adults have had to deal with the itching, discomfort and bleeding that can signal the presence of hemorrhoids.

They may be external (outside the anus) or internal and slip to the outside. In both of these instances, the hemorrhoids can be felt and seen as lumps or knots. Hemorrhoids also may remain inside the rectum and so cannot be felt or seen. These are called internal hemorrhoids.

What Causes Hemorrhoids?

A common cause is too much standing, in which all the blood above the rectum exerts pressure on the rectal and anal areas. Other conditions which contribute to hemorrhoids are: straining during bowel movements, sitting for long periods of time, chronic diarrhea or constipation, obesity and pregnancy. It's also possible to inherit a tendency to develop hemorrhoids. Hemorrhoids are more likely as you get older because the tissues that support the veins in your rectum and anus can weaken and stretch with aging. However, some patients will have none of these conditions and still develop hemorrhoids.

Common Symptoms

Bleeding during bowel movements, itching, and rectal pain are the most common hemorrhoid symptoms. Rectal pain occurs mainly with external hemorrhoids. Blood may pool under the skin, forming a hard, painful lump. This is called a thrombosed, or clotted, hemorrhoid. You might also notice streaks of blood on the toilet paper after straining to pass a stool.

The most common symptom of internal hemorrhoids is rectal bleeding. You may find bright red streaks of blood on the toilet paper or bright red blood in the toilet bowl after having a normal bowel movement. Blood also may be visible on the surface of the stool.

ITCHING This is a frequent complaint because internal hemorrhoids often seep mucus which can irritate the anal skin and cause itching.

DISCOMFORT You may feel the urge to pass stool right after having a bowel movement. This uncomfortable feeling is caused by the bulging of the hemorrhoid in the anal canal. In general, the larger the hemorrhoid, the greater the discomfort.

PAIN Most internal hemorrhoids are not painful. But large hemorrhoids that bulge from the anus may become painful if they swell and are squeezed by the muscles that control the anus. Severe pain may be a sign that the blood supply to the hemorrhoid is being cut off (strangulated hemorrhoid).

Treatment

Treatment of hemorrhoids varies depending on where they are, what problems they are causing, and how large they are. Often, time and the normal process of healing clear hemorrhoids with little treatment.

For persistent bleeding or painful hemorrhoids, your doctor may recommend a minimally invasive procedure called **Rubber Band Ligation**. This treatment can be done in your doctor's office or other outpatient setting. Banding is used to shrink and destroy the hemorrhoidal tissue.

Banding Procedure

One or two tiny rubber bands are placed around the base of the hemorrhoid inside the rectum. The bands cut off circulation to the hemorrhoid causing it to wither away within a few days. The band or bands will fall off about one or two weeks after the procedure.

When the banding is finished, the patient can expect to feel pressure for anywhere from 24 to 48 hours, the sensation of fullness in the lower abdomen, or the feeling that you need to have a bowel movement. The patient can also expect to have minimal bleeding for up to 7 days after the banding treatment.

Please call our office. A consultation with one of our doctors can be easily arranged.