

Hemorrhoidectomy

What is a hemorrhoidectomy?

A hemorrhoidectomy is a procedure to remove hemorrhoids – commonly known as piles.

Who can benefit from a hemorrhoidectomy?

Hemorrhoids are graded between the levels of 1-4; depending what grade your hemorrhoids fall under, a hemorrhoidectomy may be the best option for you (usually grades 3-4, where hemorrhoids are external). These are the more severe stages of hemorrhoids where patients may suffer from symptoms such as bleeding, discomfort, itching and anal leakage.

Procedure

The hemorrhoidectomy procedure is performed under general anesthetic. The piles are cut away from the ring muscle and 'tied off' to prevent any bleeding. Sometimes stitches may be used but the wound should heal naturally.

Recovery period

There may be some discomfort following the operation, and it may take a couple of days for you to experience bowel movement. This may be painful at first but will quickly subside. You will need to stay in hospital for a few days following the hemorrhoidectomy and normal activities can be resumed between 2-4 weeks later. You should be able to return to work after a week.

Risks

As with any surgical procedure there is risk, but complications involving hemorrhoidectomy are fairly small. These include bleeding, infection, difficulty passing urine, injury to the sphincter and injury to the anal stricture (scarring which can result in narrowing of the anal canal).