

Anal Abscess

An anal abscess can be very painful and can affect the quality of your life. Dr. Howard Kaufman and his team of licensed Pasadena colorectal surgeons have immense experience treating an anal abscess. They can help you alleviate your pain with timely care.

What is an anal abscess?

An abscess refers to pus that is collected in the tissues within the body. An anal abscess is an abscess that occurs in or near the anal region. These pus-filled formations are highly painful and can cause intense discomfort to the patient.

Anal abscesses develop when the anal glands - small sac-shaped glands located between the internal and external sphincters – get blocked by foreign matter or are infected by bacteria. These abscesses can either develop near the surface of the anus or deep within the rectum. Immediate treatment can prevent the abscess from worsening and becoming a fistula, which is a serious colorectal condition.

Signs of an anal abscess

You may have an anal abscess if you notice the following signs:

- A pus-filled boil near the surface of the anus.
- Redness, inflammation, and skin irritation in the skin around the anus.
- Extreme pulsating pain in the anal region.
- Severe constipation.
- Painful and difficult bowel movements.
- Pus discharge or foul-smelling liquid discharge.

If you notice the above symptoms, please get in touch with Dr. Kaufman and our team at Huntington Colorectal Surgeons today.

Diagnosis of anal abscess

Our licensed colorectal surgeons will conduct a comprehensive medical evaluation to identify the cause of your anal abscess. Typically, anal abscesses are caused due to:

- Bacterial infection
- Fecal blockage of the anal glands
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Rectal cancer

If necessary, we may ask you to undergo a CT or MRI scan so we can get a complete visualization of the treatment site. We identify the location, size, and severity of the abscess and then design a customized treatment plan specifically for you.

Treating an anal abscess

Anal abscesses can be treated using different treatment regimes. If the abscess is a result of a minor infection, Dr. Kaufman and his colleagues, Dr. Gabriel Akopian and Dr. Juliane Golan will start you on a course of antibiotics to address any bacterial or STD infection in the anus.

However, in serious cases or where antibiotics fail to yield the desired results, our surgeons will plan surgical drainage of the abscess. On the day of the surgery, you are provided local anesthesia to numb any pain or discomfort during the surgery. Next, we will make a tiny incision in the treatment area. Our surgeons will use specialized, minimally-invasive

technology to drain and excise the abscess. The treatment site is cleaned properly, and medical-grade sutures are used to close the site.

Dr. Kaufman and his team will address any signs of infection to ensure there is no recurrence of an anal abscess in the future. The entire surgery can take up to an hour to perform.

Recovering from an anal abscess

Your anal region may feel sore and tender after the surgery. However, these symptoms will subside after a day or two. You can return to work within a few days. Just make sure to wear breathable underwear and apply the medication our professionals prescribe.

We may call you for a post-operative check-up a week or two after the treatment, to see how you're healing. Typically, most patients experience complete relief from anal abscesses within 2 to 3 weeks after the drainage.

If you have any questions or would like to consult our doctors, contact our Huntington Colorectal Surgeons in Pasadena, California, today.