

ANORECTAL SURGERY & Office Treatment Procedures

Informed Consent

You and your doctor are considering a surgical procedure on the anus or rectum. This is when the doctor performs a surgical treatment procedure to help correct a problem that is occurring in this area. Your doctor can make no guarantee that your problem will be either corrected or cured by this procedure.

Anorectal surgery is by definition, not considered major surgery, and therefore is not assigned the higher level of risk that major surgery entails. Although, anorectal surgery is by definition minor surgery, it can be a big or a small procedure relatively speaking. The bigger and more complicated the procedure, the larger will be your risk.

By signing this form, you are authorizing your physician to do whatever he deems to be advisable in your interest. Without your prior knowledge, if any unforeseen condition arises during the surgery, your physician may call for additional diagnostic tests, procedures, operations or medication (including anesthesia and a blood transfusion), for which there is a specific indication or need.

By signing this form you are authorizing your physician to do whatever he deems to be advisable in the interest and safety of others. In the event that medical personnel should inadvertently get stuck with a sharp instrument and or contaminated with your blood, your blood may be tested for infectious diseases, including HIV.

The length of treatment may vary per each individual, and the extent of any surgery necessary cannot always be determined in advance of an operation. Depending upon your circumstances, it is possible that you may have several surgical operations or treatments over the upcoming weeks to years.

Your doctor may require a surgical assistant to help with your operation. If so, then you may be charged reasonably for the assistant's services. It is possible that you may not be notified in advance of your doctor's decision to have an assistant during the operation.

Your doctor may be one who travels frequently to and from places far away, and may be unavailable to you in the event of an emergency situation. In the event of an emergency, which is any condition listed on this form, you may need to follow up with care for your surgical procedure with another physician who is on call, or you may have to go to the nearest hospital emergency room for care and treatment by physicians unknown. You can elect to have another doctor perform this procedure, one who does not travel.

Complications from anorectal surgery rarely occur. If they do occur, most are corrected easily.

Bleeding - It is possible to lose more blood than usual or anticipated during and after a surgical operation. But only in rare cases, will a blood transfusion ever be necessary.

Allergy - Taking the pharmaceutical, nutritional, and or botanical nutraceuticals prescribed by your physician has been shown to minimize the negative effects of medications and anesthesia. However, it is still possible to have a life threatening reaction to one or more of the medications, including to the anesthesia that you will receive during the course of your treatment.

Urinary Retention – If this occurs it is usually associated with anal muscle spasm after surgery, and or an enlarged prostate. This problem improves quickly during recovery. However, in extreme cases of urinary retention, a catheterization(s) by a home health nurse may be indicated.

Rectal Stenosis - A common complication that can occur from rectal surgery is a tightening of the anal canal with the formation of excess scar tissue. This condition if it should occur, is usually corrected easily using a simple procedure to cut away and remove scar tissue. It's possible for this to become a chronic and recurrent condition after treatment.

Infection - Proper adherence to a prescribed diet, adequate hydration, exercise, rest, and a proper mental attitude helps your immune system function at its highest level. However, it is still possible for the postoperative site not to heal completely. Sometimes, the body does not have the ability to resist infection in the surgical wound site. This infection can form a chronic sore, localized abscess draining pus, crack or fissure; and in some instances, cause the whole body to become very sick. Rarely, this condition can be life threatening.

Fecal incontinence – This is the failure of voluntary control of the anal sphincter muscles, with involuntary passage of stool or gas. This condition is rare, but it can happen.

In addition, it is possible to have unforeseen complications that are not listed here. Some of the complications from this procedure may require major surgery; some of the complications may require blood replacement therapy; some of the complications can cause poor healing wounds; permanent disability; permanent deformity; and scarring. Very, very rarely, some of the complications can be fatal.

Furthermore, there may be alternatives to this procedure available to you, such as repeated local injections to the problem area; or the use of rectal suppositories and other medicines. However, these alternative methods carry their own risk of complications and a varying degree of success. Therefore in those patients in whom anorectal surgery is indicated, the procedure provides the patient with the best chance of successful treatment and the lowest risk of complications.

I certify that I have read or had read to me the contents of both pages of this form. I understand the risks and alternatives involved in this procedure. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions which I had and all of my questions were answered.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____
(Signed by patient or person legally authorized to consent for patient.)

WITNESS: _____ TIME: _____