



Colon & Rectal Surgery & Colonoscopy

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Peri-rectal Abscess and Fistula

An abscess is a “boil” that forms under the skin. It is originally caused by a superficial infection that can progress to a deeper, more complicated medical condition if not treated.

The treatment consists of drainage and debridement of the abscess cavity, to relieve the pressure and avoid progression. The earlier the therapy, the more superficial the abscess. Patients with systemic disease such as diabetes, weakened immune systems or those who have artificial valves or prosthesis may require antibiotics in conjunction with the drainage. Drainage can be done sometimes at the office under local anesthesia; however, in more severe infections, the procedure may need to be done in the operating room at the hospital.

If the abscess continues to grow even after is “lanced” (cut open), it can extend by other tracts and create one or multiple fistulas. A fistula is an abnormal communication between the anal canal and the outside skin. It can be simple or complex as well as well as single or multiple.

Early diagnosis and correct therapy are the key to success and very important to avoid more chronic complications such as recurrence and incontinence. Most abscesses and fistulas are simple, but they can also be very challenging problems for the expert colon and rectal specialist.

Other conditions can be associated with an abscess or fistula. Consult your doctor for a check up to confirm the diagnosis.

Even though these conditions are usually minor, they are best treated by a Board Certified Colon and Rectal Surgeon, an expert in this field.

Please go to our Website www.drisaac.net for more information. Look for patient education and instructions.