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Anal Disorders

Also called: Anorectal diseases

What is the anus?

Your anus is the opening at the end of your large intestine. It is where stool (poop) leaves your body.

What are anal disorders?

Problems with the anus are common. They include:

- Hemorrhoids [<https://medlineplus.gov/hemorrhoids.html>]
- Abscesses [<https://medlineplus.gov/abscess.html>]
- Fissures, small cracks or tears in the lining of your anus
- Anorectal fistula, an abnormal tunnel from your anus or rectum to the skin surface
- Anal itching (pruritus ani)
- Cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/analcancer.html>]

What are the symptoms of anal disorders?

Your symptoms will depend on which disorder you have. But some of the more common symptoms may include:

- Bleeding [<https://medlineplus.gov/gastrointestinalbleeding.html>]
- Discharge
- Itching
- Pain
- Swelling

How are anal disorders diagnosed?

To make a diagnosis, your health care provider will ask about your symptoms and medical history. Depending upon your symptoms, your provider may:

- Check the skin around your anus for anything that looks abnormal.
- Perform a digital rectal exam (DRE). For this exam, your provider inserts a lubricated, gloved finger into the lower part of your rectum to feel for lumps or anything unusual.
- Order tests, such as an anoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/anoscopy/>].

You may be embarrassed to talk about your anal troubles. But it's important to let your provider know about your symptoms, especially if you have pain or bleeding. The more details you can give about your problem, the better your provider can help you.

How are anal disorders treated?

Treatments vary, depending on the condition you have.

Start Here

- Anal and Rectal Disorders [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/digestive-disorders/anal-and-rectal-disorders/overview-of-the-anus-and-rectum>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-gastrointestinales/biolog%C3%ADA-del-aparato-digestivo/recto-y-ano>]

Symptoms

- Anal Pain [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/anal-pain/basics/definition/SYM-20050918?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/symptoms/anal-pain/basics/definition/sym-20050918?p=1>]
- Rectal Bleeding [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/rectal-bleeding/basics/definition/SYM-20050740?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/symptoms/rectal-bleeding/basics/definition/sym-20050740?p=1>]
- Understanding Minor Rectal Bleeding [<https://www.asge.org/home/for-patients/patient-information/understanding-minor-rectal-bleeding>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Anoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/anoscopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/anoscopia/>]
- Colonoscopy: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/colonoscopy.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/colonoscopy.html>]
- Lower GI Series (Barium Enema) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/lower-gi-series>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/transito-gastrointestinal-inferior>]
- Lower GI X-Ray (Barium Enema) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/lowergi>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/lowergi>]
- Testing of the Anorectal and Pelvic Floor Area [<https://aboutgimotility.org/motility-testing/anorectal-and-pelvic-floor-area/>]
(International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders)

Treatments and Therapies

- Anal fissure - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100154_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100154_1.htm]
- How to Use Rectal Suppositories [<https://www.safemedication.com/how-to-use-medication/rectal-suppositories>]
(American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)
- Imperforate anus repair - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100030_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100030_1.htm]

Related Issues

- How to Get More Fiber in Your Diet [<https://familydoctor.org/fiber-how-to-increase-the-amount-in-your-diet/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/fibra-como-aumentar-la-cantidad-de-fibra-en-su-dieta/?adfree=true>]

Specifics

- Anal Abscess and Fistula [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/abscess-and-fistula-expanded-information>]  (American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons)
Also in Spanish [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/absceso-anal-y-la-fistula>]
- Anal Fissure [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/anal-fissure>]
(American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons)

- Anal Fissures [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/anal-fissures/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/fisuras-anales-es/?adfree=true>]
- Anal Itching [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/anal-itching/symptoms-causes/syc-20369345?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/anal-itching/symptoms-causes/syc-20369345?p=1>]
- Pelvic Floor Dyssynergia [<https://aboutgimotility.org/learn-about-gi-motility/disorders-of-the-pelvic-floor/pelvic-floor-dyssynergia/>] (International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders)
- Pruritus Ani [<https://fascirs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/pruritis-ani-expanded-version>] (American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Anus Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Anus+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Unraveling the link between inflammatory bowel disease and perianal abscess: insights... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40730952>]
- Article: Gut microbiota and relevant metabolites analysis in perianal abscess of infants. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40426060>]
- Article: Time to classify: a narrative and scoping review of the old... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40419817>]
- Anal Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Anus+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22ast+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- American College of Gastroenterology [<https://gi.org>]
- American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons [<https://fascirs.org/>]
- Find a Gastroenterologist (GI Doctor) [<https://gi.org/patients/find-a-gastroenterologist/>] (American College of Gastroenterology)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 

Patient Handouts

- Anal fissure [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001130.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001130.htm>]
- Anal itching - self-care [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000689.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000689.htm>]
- Anorectal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001519.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001519.htm>]
- Anoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003890.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003890.htm>]
- Digital rectal exam [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007069.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007069.htm>]
- Imperforate anus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001147.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001147.htm>]
- Perianal streptococcal cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001346.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001346.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Anal fissure](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001130.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001130.htm]

[Anal fissure - series](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100154_1.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100154_1.htm]

[Anal itching - self-care](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000689.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000689.htm]

[Anorectal abscess](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001519.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001519.htm]

[Anoscopy](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003890.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003890.htm]

[Digital rectal exam](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007069.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007069.htm]

[Imperforate anus](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001147.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001147.htm]

[Imperforate anus repair](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002926.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002926.htm]

[Imperforate anus repair - series](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100030_1.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100030_1.htm]

[Perianal streptococcal cellulitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001346.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001346.htm]

Related Health Topics

[Anal Cancer](https://medlineplus.gov/analcancer.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/analcancer.html]

[Hemorrhoids](https://medlineplus.gov/hemorrhoids.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/hemorrhoids.html]

[Rectal Disorders](https://medlineplus.gov/rectaldisorders.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/rectaldisorders.html]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Anal Disorders* is the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [https://www.niddk.nih.gov]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [https://medlineplus.gov/languages/analdiorders.html] on *Anal Disorders*

[\[https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html) about external links and our quality guidelines

[\[https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html).

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