

HEMORRHOID ARTERY EMBOLIZATION

WHAT ARE HEMORRHOIDS?

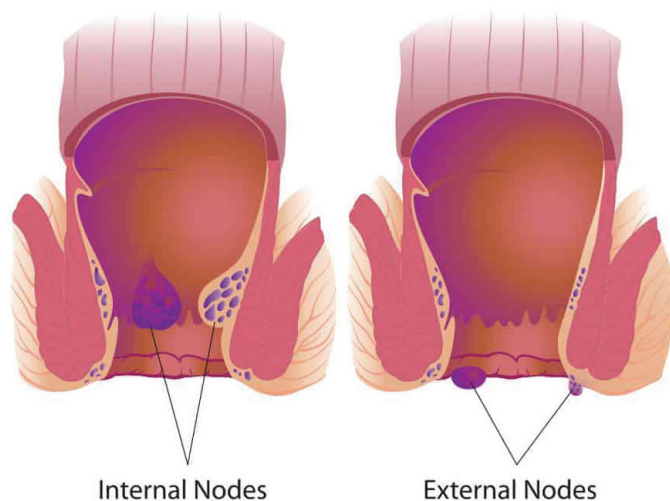
Hemorrhoids are swollen veins in the lower part of the rectum and anus. Hemorrhoids are similar to varicose veins that are seen in the lower extremities that become engorged. Hemorrhoids are a very common condition accounting for the 3rd most common outpatient gastrointestinal diagnosis that affects nearly 4 million people in the United States per year. They are frequently seen in individuals with a history of constipation/straining during bowel movements, obesity and pregnancy. Studies have also found that hemorrhoids are linked with conditions associated with diarrhea such as colitis, malabsorption and chronic pancreatitis. Lifestyle consisting of sitting for long periods of time, low-fiber diet regularly lifting heavy items also put an individual at increased risk. There are two difficult types of hemorrhoids, external which occur under the skin around the rectum and internal that develop inside the rectum.

EXTERNAL HEMORRHOIDS SYMPTOMS:

Pain
Itching
Burning

INTERNAL HEMORRHOIDS SYMPTOMS:

Blood in stool
Itching or irritation in the anal area
Discomfort: pain or soreness in the anal region
Lumps: protruding from the anal region
Swelling: in the anal region
Feces: may leak out unintentionally



COMMON TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR INTERNAL HEMORRHOIDS

RUBBER BAND LIGATION

Is a minimally invasive procedure that places one or two tiny rubber bands around the base of an internal hemorrhoid to cut off its blood flow. The hemorrhoid withers and falls off within a week. This procedure can be uncomfortable and cause bleeding.

SCLEROSANT INJECTION

Is a noninvasive procedure that injects a chemical solution into the swollen veins. This causes it to block the blood flow and eventually shrink and disappear.

HEMORRHOIDECTOMY

This is performed by a surgeon where he removes extra tissue that causes bleeding by using one of various techniques. Although this is an effective procedure, it is associated with a long, painful post operative course and has a higher complication rate when compare to other interventions.

WHAT IS HEMORRHOID ARTERY EMBOLIZATION?

Hemorrhoid embolization is a nonsurgical alternative that results in reducing blood flow to the area supplying the hemorrhoids. It is a minimally invasive procedure, which means it requires only a tiny nick in the skin. It is performed while the patient is conscious but sedated.

Hemorrhoid artery embolization is performed by an interventional radiologist. Interventional radiologists are board-certified physicians who specialize in minimally invasive, image guided treatments. They use X-rays, ultrasound, CT and other imaging techniques to direct their treatments.

The interventional radiologist will make a small nick in the skin (less than 1/2 of an inch) either in the groin or left wrist and insert a catheter into the artery. The catheter is guided to the arteries branches that supply blood to the internal hemorrhoids. The interventional radiologist will then place tiny coils and/or plastic particles, the size of a grain of sand, to seal the vessel. This intern causes the hemorrhoid to shrink over the coming weeks and months. This procedure takes approximately one hour to perform.

The advantages of hemorrhoid artery embolization are that it is an outpatient procedure with decreased recovery time and most patients are back to work the following day. The successful of the procedure is approximately 93% at the one month mark and most reported little to no pain post procedure.

Your doctor's office will be able to address any additional questions and concerns regarding the procedure. Feel free to call us **1-866-Flow2Toe (1-866-356-9286)** or visit the website at aminj.com for more information and to use the scheduling portal.