Haemorrhoids

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www.netdoctor.org.uk

Although this site is intended for both health professionals and patients, it is probably more useful for the latter group. The site was last updated in June 2005 and the information provided is not up to date, specifically with regards to treatment options for haemorrhoids. The amount of information housed in this website is very basic, lacks detail and is devoid of any references and further links. As a consequence, this site is not very informative, poorly designed, rather simplistic and is of limited use to doctors and health professionals.*

www.surgical-tutor.org.uk

This site contains educational material aimed at those preparing for undergraduate and postgraduate surgical examinations. The basic principles of the disease with emphasis to epidemiology, pathogenesis, classification and treatment options are well covered in a 'revision notes' format which makes it useful as an examination revision guide for all surgical trainees. The information is well referenced and the site contains some excellent photographs of prolapsed and thrombosed haemorrhoids and photographs of surgical techniques such as circular stapled haemorrhoidectomy. This site is a very valuable resource for trainees preparing for examinations but it also provides sound guidance to the surgeon who is managing patients with haemorrhoids.****

www.aafp.org

This is the site of the American Academy of Family Physicians and one of its main objectives is to 'promote high quality, innovative education for physicians, residents and medical students that encompasses the art, science, evidence and socio-economics of family medicine'. Using 'hemorrhoids' as a search key word produced two papers with evidenced-based information on the treatment options and one well referenced paper about the various diseases of the ano-rectum which contains some excellent illustrations and photographs. The papers on the treatment options for haemorrhoids

contain a wealth of randomised controlled trials comparing the various different techniques currently employed in the surgical treatment of haemorrhoids. The information provided in this website is intended for colorectal surgeons and for other doctors and health professionals who aim to manage patients with haemorrhoids based on in-depth literature review.****

www.patient.co.uk

This is a patient-orientated website with concise information which is well presented, with reasonable use of illustrations. It provides thorough and easy-to-follow advice on the management of haemorrhoids with key areas high-lighted. Although it contains a plethora of links to online textbooks and journals, Medline and other good health sites, it has little information on the operative interventions, the postoperative care and the possible complications for this common problem. Overall, this is a very good overview of the subject with information for both understanding of the problem and good life-style advice and hints.***

www.medinfo.co.uk

This is a UK-based, patient-orientated site which is rather unexciting, comprising text only without any photographs or illustrations. It contains limited information that is provided in a simplistic manner with no further links to other sites. There is only a negligible amount of information on surgical treatments for haemorrhoids which is summarised in the sentence: 'Cut away the problem, usually under a general anaesthetic'. Overall, this is a very basic site that is not worth visiting.*

www.health24.com

This is an excellent, comprehensive, accurate and well-written site aimed mainly at the patient. It provides information not only on the symptoms and clinical manifestations of haemorrhoids but also emphasises that a patient with rectal bleeding and/or discharge should consult a doctor to rule out life-threatening conditions before the diagnosis of haemorrhoids is confirmed. This is not the case, unfortunately, with other websites. In summary, this site offers an excellent account of the subject, presented in a clear and attractive format which makes this an essential site for patients to visit.****