



PERIANAL ABSCESS FACT SHEET

What is a Perianal Abscess?

A perianal abscess is an infection located just outside the anal opening. Symptoms of an abscess include swelling and moderate to severe pain.

What causes a Perianal Abscess?

A perianal abscess is usually caused by a bacterial infection, and it is generally thought that the infection starts just inside the anal canal and works its way into the tissues around the anus.

How is a Perianal Abscess treated?

The treatment for a perianal abscess is to open the site of the infection and to drain the pus that is present within the abscess. This procedure is called incision and drainage. Depending on the size and location of the perianal abscess, the incision and drainage procedure may be performed in the operating room under anesthesia, or less commonly as an office procedure.

If you have been diagnosed with a perianal abscess and surgery is recommended, your physician will discuss the procedure in detail with you prior to proceeding.

Can they lead to more serious problems?

Perianal abscesses are extremely painful. They should be treated as soon as they develop to prevent further tissue damage and to provide prompt and effective pain relief.