

Hemorrhoids Tests

Hemorrhoids need to be examined by a doctor. Without proper treatment, hemorrhoids easily become a more severe problem. If you are afflicted with hemorrhoids, it is important to get them diagnosed. It is also advisable to know what to expect from the tests and examination procedures. Your doctor will be able to help you determine if bleeding and irritation are a result of hemorrhoids or something more serious. He or she will then be able to help you find the proper treatment for it. If you are having problems with hemorrhoids, a thorough doctor's examination is imperative. Prior to administering any tests, an examination will make the process easier for you and the doctor. Your doctor will be able to give you an accurate diagnosis and reduce your hemorrhoid-related pain.

An anoscope is the first type of commonly-used test for hemorrhoids. The doctor will use the anoscope to make sure that hemorrhoids are the problem. The anoscope, essentially a short hollow tube with a light on the end of it, is inserted approximately two inches into the anal canal. The light will allow the doctor to see the blood vessels, if they are swollen and to what degree. It is not necessary to fast before this procedure.

Proctoscopy is the second test used for hemorrhoid diagnosis. A proctoscope is very similar to the anoscope. It also consists of a hollow tube that is inserted into the colon. The light at the end, however, extends farther into the rectal area. This is usually required if you are having problems with internal hemorrhoids. It allows the physician to ascertain whether the bleeding is from hemorrhoids or is resultant from other digestive problems.

A third type of test is called a sigmoidoscopy. With this specific type of test, as with the two previous, there will be a hollow tube with a light on the end that is inserted into your rectal area. The sigmoidoscope is more flexible and allows the doctor to examine further into the rectal area. During the course of a sigmoidoscopy, the doctor will not only be able to examine the rectal area, but also remove any growth taking place in your digestive system that may be causing the hemorrhoids. The main reason a doctor would choose to use a sigmoidoscope is to bend around the colon to view the edges that may have the hemorrhoids attached to them. With a sigmoidoscopy, it is important that the colon is empty. In order to clean out the colon, you may be required to take a laxative, use an enema or both, depending on your needs. This allows them to better identify problems within the colon or in the rectal area.