

What Are Hemorrhoids?

Hemorrhoids are small veins that have become enlarged and swollen (called "varicose") around the rectum and anus. The rectum is the final or lowest part of the large bowel, and is surrounded by a circle of muscle that stretches and then tightens to force the solid waste products of digestion (feces or bowel movement) down and out through the anus, the small opening through which solid waste passes out of the body. Veins around the rectum and anus often swell and become inflamed, develop small blood clots, and cause minor bleeding. There are two major types of hemorrhoids - external and internal. Many people suffer from both.

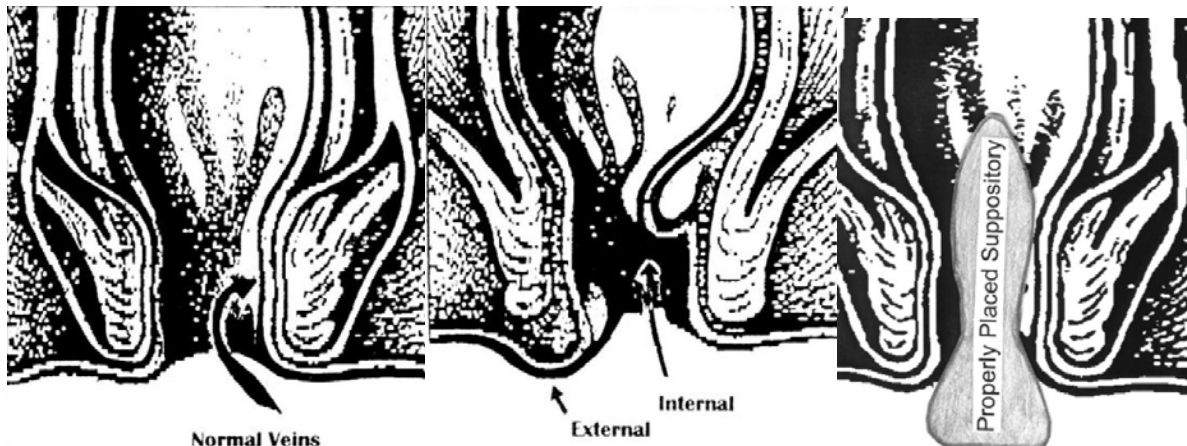
EXTERNAL

External hemorrhoids develop under the skin, just outside the opening of the anus. They may cause pain and itch, especially during a bowel movement, and they are often tender to the touch. They are round, purple, and feel like "soft swellings."

INTERNAL

Internal hemorrhoids are found further up, inside the rectum. Often these hemorrhoids are not painful, and you may not know they are there until they start to bleed. Sometimes these internal hemorrhoids may be pushed out (prolapsed) through the anus. If that happens, they can become quite painful.

When blood clots develop inside these enlarged veins, whether external or internal, we describe them as "thrombosed" or "thrombotic." Thrombotic hemorrhoids can cause bleeding and pain that gets worse with irritation or increased pressure (coughing or straining, for example).



Patient Information Sheet for Rectal Rocket Suppository

1. This suppository is designed so that part of the suppository is inserted into the rectum to treat internal hemorrhoids, while the larger flared end of the suppository remains on the outside to treat external hemorrhoids.
2. The suppository should be used when the patient will be able to lie down for at least 6 hours.
3. The suppository should be at room temperature when placed in the rectum. Always run the suppository under warm water for a few seconds before insertion.
4. The diagram above identifies the proper placement of the rocket suppository in relationship to internal and external hemorrhoids.
5. See your physician if you are experiencing continued excessive bleeding (bright red blood) from your hemorrhoids.