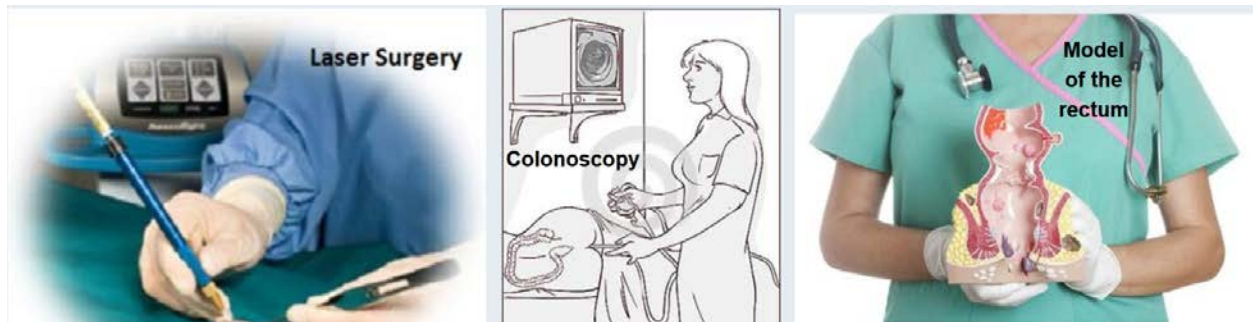


PROCTOLOGY - COLON RECTAL CLINICS

Colon Diseases and Rectal Surgery

Proctology: The practice of Proctology consists of the treatment of diseases and conditions originating within or affecting the anus, rectum, perianal and perirectal areas, and related or complicating conditions, including [colonoscopy](#) procedures. The scope of anal-rectal diseases treated medically or with minor surgery usually includes [hemorrhoids](#), [prolapse](#), fissures, abscesses, fistulae, warts, and pilonidal cysts. Proctology is a shortage specialty, and there are not many Board-Certified Proctologists in most cities.

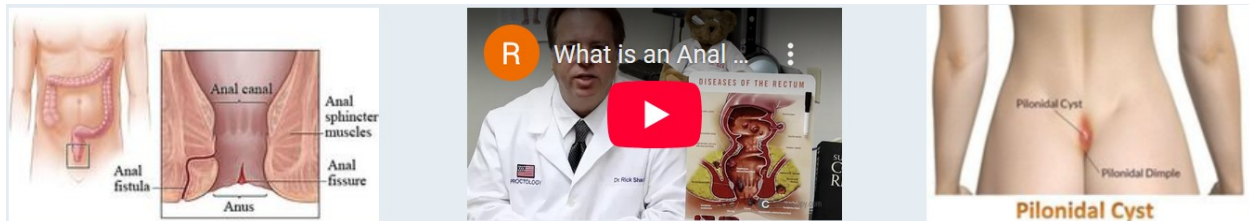
Proctologists are Board Certified by the [AOBPR](#). A Proctologist is "more specialized" than a Colon & Rectal Surgeon. Whereas the Proctologist spends 95% of his or her time treating anal and rectal diseases, the Colon & Rectal Surgeon (below) spends most of his or her time treating colon diseases, and performing major surgery, such as removing colorectal cancer and other tumors through small incisions in the abdomen. Some tools of the Proctologist are pictured below:



Colon and Rectal Surgeons are certified by the [ABCRS](#). A colorectal surgeon is well-versed in the treatment of both benign and malignant diseases of the colon, rectum, and anus, and can perform routine screening examinations and surgically treat conditions when indicated. Laparoscopic surgery is a specialized technique used to perform colon surgery through small incisions in the abdomen. Colon and rectal diseases comprise a broad range of conditions and ailments, with severity ranging from mildly irritating to life-threatening.

Fistula & Abscess: Anal fistulas are generally common among those who have had an anal abscess. Treatment is usually necessary to reduce the risk of infection in an anal fistula and to alleviate symptoms. An anal fistula is defined as a small tunnel with an internal opening in the anal canal and an external opening in the skin near the anus. Anal fistulas form when an anal abscess, which has drained, doesn't heal completely.

Fissure: An anal fissure is a linear tear in the anal skin. It is usually, but not always, caused by the passage of a hard, dry bowel movement through a tight anal sphincter. Fissures typically cause pain and bleeding with bowel movements. Treatment is usually necessary to prevent infection, abscess, or pruritus ani (also known as an “itchy anus”). Treatment can be with [topical cream](#), [laser fissurectomy](#), which is less painful, controlled-intermittent anal dilatation, or with surgery (e.g., lateral internal sphincterotomy and or anooplasty).



Pilonidal Cyst is a chronic infection of the skin commonly found in the upper cleft between the buttocks. Typically occurring in young adults, this condition results from hair growing in an inverted position under the skin, causing a tender abscess or a sinus draining pus. Management of an acute abscess typically involves performing an incision and drainage procedure to evacuate the purulent material, thereby alleviating pain and inflammation. A chronic sinus usually will need to be excised or surgically opened and packed with gauze for several weeks.