#### WHAT ARE HAEMORRHOIDS?

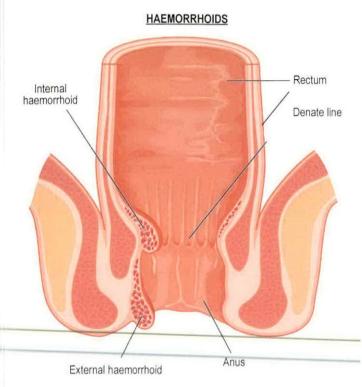
Haemorrhoids are masses, clumps, or cushions of tissue in the anal canal - they are full of blood vessels, support tissue, muscle and elastic fibres. In many cases people are unaware they have haemorrhoids because they don't always cause symptoms. Haemorrhoids are present in as many as 50% of the population.

## Some of the symptoms from haemorrhoids can include:

- Bleeding after passing a stool (the blood is usually bright red)
- · Itchy bottom
- A lump hanging down outside of the anus, which may need to be pushed back in after passing a stool
- · A mucus discharge after passing a stool
- · Soreness, redness and swelling around your anus
- · Bleeding/pain from the anus following bowel movement

# Haemorrhoids can be formed due to many reasons. Some of them include:

- Long term constipation,
- · Being overweight or obese
- Age as you get older, your body's supporting tissues get weaker, increasing your risk of haemorrhoids
- Being pregnant which can place increased pressure on your pelvic blood vessels, causing them to enlarge
- · Having a family history of haemorrhoids
- · Regularly lifting heavy objects
- · A persistent cough or repeated vomiting
- · Sitting down for long periods of time



It is imperative if you have any form of rectal bleeding that you contact your General Practitioner or Gastroenterologist for a further examination.

In most cases haemorrhoids will resolve on their own or with use of over the counter medications, as directed by your General practitioner or Gastroenterologist. Increasing your fibre may also be helpful in reducing your haemorrhoids.

In some severe or symptomatic cases, haemorrhoids may either require a procedure called Banding or a surgical procedure to remove them under general anaesthesia.

## MELBOURNE DIGESTIVE CENTRE



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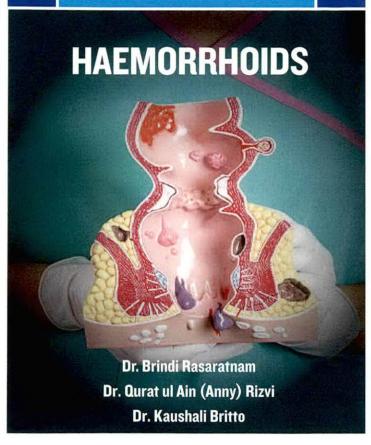
#### **ABOUT**

Our gastroenterology services offer patients a comprehensive range of diagnostic and therapeutic services with a focus on gastroscopy, colonoscopy and capsule endoscopy. Our team is dedicated to patient care and strives to make a patient's experience as comfortable as possible.

#### SERVICES

- Consultation
- Colonoscopy
- · Capsule Endoscopy
- Intestinal Ultrasound
- Liver Fibrosis Ultrasound
- · EUS
- · ERCP
- Gastroscopy
- · Breath Testing (Lactose/Fructose/Helicobacter)





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