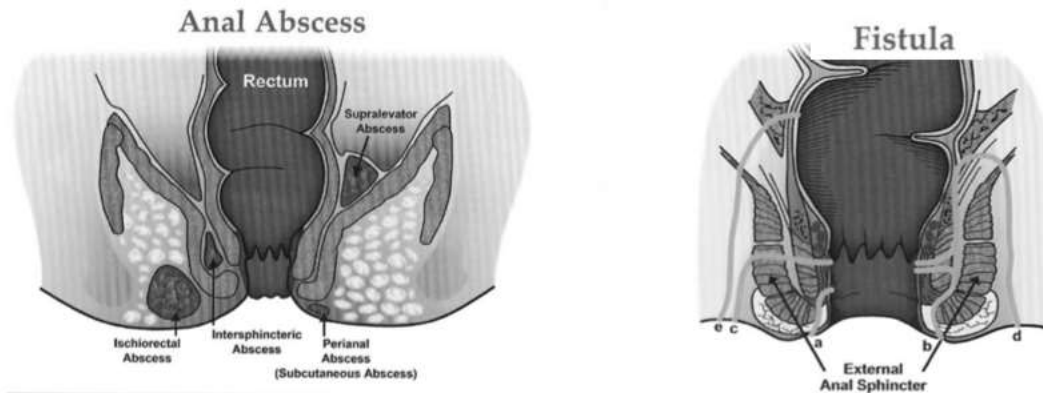


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An anal abscess or fistula is the result of an infection of glands near the anus

An abscess is a collection of pus/infection, that is quite painful. Whether these are drained by a doctor or they drain by themselves, they may turn into a fistula. 50% of abscesses turn into a fistula

A fistula is a tunnel, connecting the anus to the skin. These tunnels can cause drainage or pain.

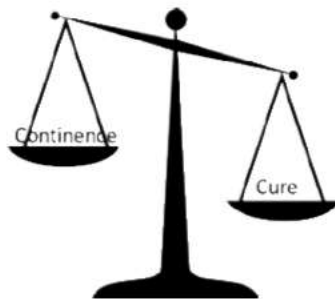
Treatment

Abscess – the treatment of an abscess is drainage of the infection.

Fistula –Unfortunately, there are no medications to heal fistulas, and surgery is the only treatment. The treatment is determined by the relationship of the fistula to the anal muscles. These muscles are important to your ability to control bowel movements (continence)

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Fistulotomy – Cutting the fistula open. It turns the tunnel into a ditch, and it allows for the wound to heal from the bottom up

- 95% cure rate
- If the fistula does not go through a lot of muscle, very low risk to continence

Seton drain – If the risk of a fistulotomy is too high, a plastic drain will be inserted into the fistula. This usually controls symptoms by preventing the build-up of pus.

- Drain stays in place for minimum 3 months
- LIFT procedure can then be done
- 50-60% cure rate, but does not cut the muscle, low risk to changes in continence