

Examination under Anaesthesia – Incision and Drainage of Perianal Abscess

I. Consent

- Discusses indications for procedure, including differential diagnosis
- Discusses possible risks and complications of procedure, such as bleeding from operative site, reaction to anaesthetic
- Discusses post operative recovery and likely management – i.e. wound packing, district nursing service and likely timing/duration

II. Pre operation planning

- Reviews relevant data (patient history, medications, pathology results) to foresee any risks or contraindications – such as coagulopathy, diabetes.
- Checks the above information with the patient
- Aware of clinical indications
- Aware of significant co-morbidities - obesity, renal disease etc
- Knows relevant results
- Has reviewed relevant imaging (if appropriate)

III. Pre operative preparation

- Patient is positioned appropriately – ie lithotomy position
- WHO Safety check and team time out
- Consideration of DVT prophylaxis and antibiotic prophylaxis
- Ensures specialised equipment available as required
- Prepares and drapes appropriately

IV. Exposure and closure

- Considers use of ribbon gauze packing vs drain vs primary closure (if appropriate)

V. Intra operative technique: global (G) and task-specific items (T)

- Appropriate per rectal examination under anaesthesia
- Appropriate use of proctoscope to rule out other pathologies (e.g. fistulae in ano)
- Appropriate examination of anus to assess for fluctuant area
- Appropriate incision over abscess
- The use of micro-swab to send for microscopy/culture and sensitivities to drive antibiotic treatment (if appropriate)
- Appropriate wound exploration by combination of sharp and blunt dissection (i.e. to break up loculations)
- Appropriate wound washout (saline, peroxide, betadine as appropriate)
- Considered approach to wound management – ribbon gauze packing vs drain vs closure

VI. Post operative management

- Clear operative note and post operative documentation
- Early liaison with nursing staff/discharge co-ordinator to arrange referral to district nursing as appropriate
- Appropriate follow up arranged