

Hemorrhoid Banding

Banding is a non-surgical treatment option for **Internal** hemorrhoids. It works by cutting off the blood supply to the hemorrhoid with a small rubber band.

What is a hemorrhoid?

A hemorrhoid is a swollen blood vessel in the lower part of the rectum and anus. They can become irritated with childbirth, constipation, not enough fiber or sitting on the toilet too long.

Banding is done in 2-3 office visits because there are 3 separate columns a hemorrhoid can occur and only 1 column can be treated at a time. The treatment is effective for approximately 4-5 years. Banding will only treat internal hemorrhoids. After the band is placed, there should be no pain to the patient. Within 2-4 days of banding, the hemorrhoid will shrink and fall off with the band. In the next 2 weeks the patient may see small amounts of blood when wiping. This is normal.

Patients must have an initial office visit with exam or a specific order for banding to be scheduled for a banding procedure. If a patient is not sure if what they have is an internal or external hemorrhoid, or a hemorrhoid at all, a scheduled consultation is recommended.

1st Visit

The 1st visit is an evaluation by physician to determine if it is a treatable internal hemorrhoid or another cause of pain/bleeding. The patient is instructed to lay on their left side during the procedure. The physician will use an anoscope to look at the area and will go ahead with the banding procedure if the patient is an appropriate candidate. The patient will be asked to stay at the clinic for approximately 10 mins after the procedure to make sure that they are not having any pain.

2nd and 3rd visit-

The 2nd and 3rd visits are done 2-3 weeks apart. Visit is usually less than 15mins. Possibly a 4th visit is needed. 80% of patients will feel better after the 1st treatment; however, the hemorrhoid does have a good chance of coming back- so please keep the 2nd visit.

*If the patient is on any blood thinner besides Aspirin, banding with our office cannot be performed. In this situation, referral to colorectal surgery is provided.

FAQs:

- There is no prep for the banding procedure.
- There is no pain with the banding procedure, thus no need for local anesthetics or sedation.
- Only 1 hemorrhoid column(area) can be banded at a time.
- It is covered by most insurances.
- There is a latex and non-latex band option for those patients with allergies to latex. Please be sure to inform the office staff if you have a latex allergy.
- Most patients do require more than 1 banding treatment to fully treat their internal hemorrhoids.