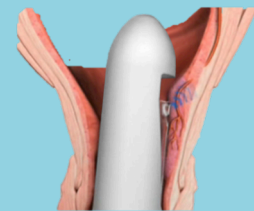


HALO

Haemorrhoidal Artery Ligation Operation



What is HALO?

It is an operation for certain types of haemorrhoids (piles), which involves the use of ultrasound to identify and stitch the blood vessels supplying the haemorrhoids. The piles shrink as a result of losing their blood supply. Further sutures can be placed to pull up prolapsing haemorrhoids (rectoanal repair - RAR).

Would I need a general anaesthetic?

Our preference is to carry out the procedure under general anaesthetic though it can be performed under sedation.

Which types of haemorrhoids are suitable for HALO?

After your consultation, you will be advised about the suitability of HALO for your piles. HALO is usually effective for bleeding haemorrhoids that have not been improved by simple measures such as changes in diet and banding. It can also be effective for some patients who are bothered by lumps at the anus.

Do I need to have any tests before the operation?

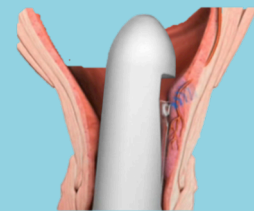
It is sometimes necessary to examine the bowel above the haemorrhoids using a telescope test such as a colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy.

What are the advantages of HALO?

The main advantage of HALO is that the haemorrhoids are not cut out and so there are no painful scars or wounds around the anus. The stitches are high enough in the back passage such that there is only minimal discomfort as there is little sensation at this level.

HALO

Haemorrhoidal Artery Ligation Operation



How long does it take to recover?

Patients will usually be allowed home either the same day or after one night in hospital. People may wish to go back to work within a few days. Sometimes people will get some discomfort either within the back passage or felt low down in the tummy, which may last a few days. It is common to get the temporary sensation of needing to open your bowels, even though they are empty, after the procedure.

What are the outcomes and risks of surgery?

4 out of 5 people feel their symptoms are significantly improved or resolved after a HALO. The main risk of HALO is bleeding, which is a potential problem with all forms of haemorrhoid surgery. A few spots of blood is not unusual but about 1 in 100 patients get bleeding which is heavier and does not stop. Typically, this occurs 3-7 days after surgery. If this is the case, you should seek urgent medical advice.

