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CAN THERE BE COMPLICATIONS AFTER ANAL SURGERY?

Complications after anal surgery are not common, but you need to be aware that some can occur, and these may include:

1. Bleeding

Bleeding from the anal area after anal surgery almost always occurs, but occasionally it can be unacceptable and may require a further minor surgical procedure.

2. Infection

Infection after anal surgery is unusual, but sometimes small abscesses may occur in wounds and may require drainage.

3. Severe post-operative pain

Post-operative pain after anal surgery is usually not a major problem. Occasionally severe spasm of the anal muscles can occur which will lead to unacceptable discomfort, and a small operative procedure may be required to relieve the spasm.

4. Constipation

Severe constipation is usually prevented by the use of post-operative laxatives. A condition known as "faecal impaction" is extremely rare, but if it does occur, it is impossible to evacuate the bowel, and again a small procedure is required to empty the rectum.

5. Post-operative urinary difficulties

Sometimes after anal surgery it can be difficult to pass urine, but this almost always comes good with the passage of a little time. Occasionally a urinary catheter for a day or so may be necessary. Rarely with older male patients, prostatic procedures may be required.

6. Late post-operative bleeding

Bleeding from the anal area 1-2 weeks post-operatively is not uncommon, but if the blood loss is profuse or large clots are coming away, then I should be phoned.

7. What about the sphincter muscle?

Any permanent alteration in bowel habit control after haemorrhoid, fistula or anal surgery is extremely unlikely.