



The Surgical Institute
at True North

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What is a Fistulotomy

How will the day go for me?

Date of procedure: _____

Arrival Time: The hospital staff will contact you the day before your procedure and give you an exact time of arrival. If you have not been contacted by 4:00 PM please call the hospital at (580) 251-8449 or our office at (580) 255-9797.

Expected length of procedure: There will be 30 minutes of prep time. The surgery will take approximately 30 minutes and you will be in recovery for 30 additional minutes.

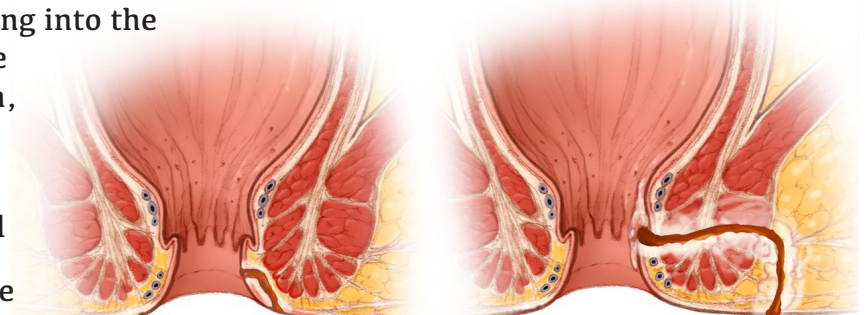
What happens after I arrive?

- You will check in at Admissions and Outpatient Services (see map included in packet).
- Pre-op laboratories/imaging will be completed if not previously performed.
- A nurse will confirm your history, start your IV and fluids will be given.
- The surgeon will visit with you prior to your procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Anesthesia will arrive to review your history and take you to the operating room.
- Anesthesia will be administered and the surgery will begin.

Fistulotomy

How will my fistula be repaired?

- The surgeon will make an incision into the fistula's internal opening. He then scrapes and flushes out the infected tissue. The channel is flattened and may be sutured into place.
- If the fistula passes through a significant portion of anal sphincter muscle, a seton may need to be placed. The surgeon places a silk string into the fistula that is tied externally to keep the fistula open and help drain the infection, while maintaining the integrity of the sphincter muscles.
- The setons are left in place for several weeks. In order to heal the fistula, the setons are tightened weekly, healing the fistula from the inside out. This may be done under anesthesia or in the clinical setting.



Simple

Complex