



Should You See a Doctor?

Michael Fulmes, MD, PhD

Many patients have symptoms they would prefer to hide or ignore. One of these symptoms is rectal bleeding.

Rectal pain and bleeding may be associated with a benign condition like hemorrhoids, but it could be an early sign of a more serious condition like diverticulosis, colo-rectal polyps, or cancer.

Your physician is prepared to evaluate your condition and recommend the most effective treatment. In determining the cause of pain or bleeding, the physician may advise a procedure called a colonoscopy.

Colonoscopy, should be performed periodically, usually every ten years beginning at age 40, even when no symptoms are present, in order to discover silent conditions that could become major problems if undetected.

When recommended for the evaluation of pain or bleeding, a Gastroenterologist or Colo-Rectal surgeon will use a special instrument to directly inspect the inner

lining of the colon.

At this time the gastroenterologist can also evaluate other conditions such as constipation, chronic diarrhea, abdominal pain and changes in bowel habits.

Even when a serious problem is present, early discovery and treatment generally result in a good outcome.

Colonoscopy is usually performed with sedation administered by an anesthesiologist so that patients are comfortable throughout the procedure.

Among the common and very painful, but benign, conditions is anal fissure. Although surgical intervention is sometimes required to cure it, new techniques are now available to cure this problem in most patients.

If you are experiencing pain, relief is available, and if you have persistent bleeding, the safest course is to have it evaluated by an expert.

If you or a loved one requires this kind of care, for either a benign or malignant

conditions, we are prepared to provide a safe and efficient environment in our one-day surgical suite.

For more information or to contact one of our doctors, call 718-692-5301



About the author: Dr. Michael Fulmes, MD, PhD, who is a board-certified colo-rectal surgeon, is a graduate of the National Medical University in Ukraine. He received surgical training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian Medical Center and Lehigh Valley Medical Center. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He has also developed innovative techniques for managing painful anal-rectal conditions without surgery.

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