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DRAINAGE OF A PERIANAL OR PILONIDAL ABSCESS

1. An abscess is a collection of pus under the skin causing pain, swelling and occasionally a fever. Opening and draining the abscess cavity usually relieves most of the discomfort.
2. There may be pain when the local anesthetic wears off in 2-4 hours. Use Extra Strength Tylenol or Ibuprofen every 4-6 hours as needed, or the prescription pain medication as directed by your doctor.
3. Gauze has been packed into the wound to control bleeding. This can be removed 8-12 hours later while soaking in a warm tub bath. Follow doctor's instructions for wound care after initial packing removed. Wound may need to be repacked daily or a dry gauze may be placed over the wound and changed at least daily and as necessary.
4. Tub baths **may** be used to keep the area clean as directed by doctor. **DO NOT** apply any creams, ointments or salves to the wound.
5. Bleeding, discharge, odor and itching are normal during the healing of the wound. Antibiotics are not necessary once the abscess has been drained.
6. Approximately 50% of abscesses will result in a fistula (a tract from the rectum to the skin on the buttocks). If wound drainage persists or re-occurs after wound has healed, contact the doctor to be examined.