

My Method for “Walk Away” Hemorrhoid Surgery

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G5P5, 4 days post partum presents with intractable pain. Patient had history of hemorrhoid "flare" after each pregnancy with persistence of volume of hemorrhoid tissue after the initial phase of inflammation and pain. Previous treatments from other docs included incision (not excision) without IV anesthesia on three occurrences.

The patient underwent Radiofrequency (RF) excision after topical anesthesia, tumescent infusion (150cc of double strength Klein's solution – lidocaine and epinephrine). Normally I would not use IV sedation for hemorrhoid cases, but the magnitude of this clinical presentation led me to recommend IV sedation. My choice would normally is Droperidol/Versed/Demerol, but this patient weighed 230 pounds, and our procedure suite was only available for 60 minutes, after which I needed the patient to be able to ambulate to her car under her own power.

In this case I chose an agent, propofol, that would be consistent with superRapid recovery. I placed 250mg in a 250cc IV bag, titrated to sedation. Rarely, Propofol can cause nausea, so I pretreated with 4mg of IV Zofran.

The key to inducing little to no post-operative pain is to use the Ellman pure cut setting with the lowest setting that will cut. NO SPARK! The Ellman alloy tips minimize thermal damage. It is important to induce NO thermal damage. NO cautery is used. Ligature is only placed conservatively if required.

This patient called one time to the office with a question. She took a few of her Lortab, and stated that her recovery was “no big deal”.

Economics:

Office Evaluation for new patient and this Surgical Procedure \$550 plus IV sedation (\$500, discounted to \$200). Total fee = \$750. This patient was BCBS TN, out-of-network. Out of network is GREAT, because it allows us to charge a reasonable fee and get paid in full.

This patient was a "worked in" new patient. What other options did she have?? (none were good)

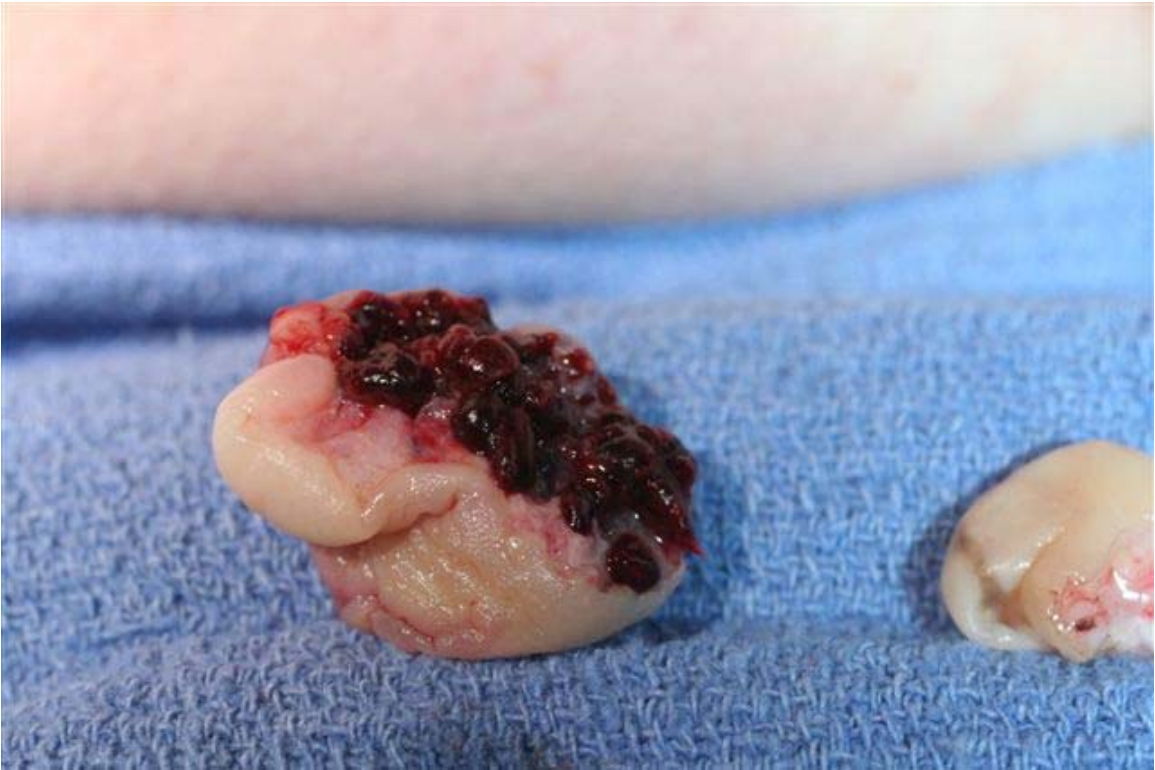
It is nice to be off the plantation!

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Tissue



(Continued)

Immediately After



7 Days After



(the "end")