

| Feature | Hemorrhoids | Anal Fissure |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| ✔ Definition | Dilated anal cushions (normal vascular structures present in everyone) | A small tear or crack in the skin of the anal canal |
| 📍 Location | Internal: above dentate line External: below dentate line | Most commonly in the posterior midline (sometimes anterior in women, especially postpartum) |
| 🦋 Nerve Supply | Internal: Visceral → painless External: Somatic → painful if thrombosed | Covered by somatic nerves → extremely painful |
| 🔥 Key Symptoms | Painless bright red bleeding , prolapse, pruritus, occasional discharge | Severe sharp/burning pain during & after defecation, + bright red bleeding on stool/toilet paper |
| ⚠️ Complications | Thrombosis, strangulation, ulceration, possible incontinence after surgery | Chronic fissure, sentinel pile, hypertrophied papilla, submucosal fistula, pain-induced constipation |
| 🔬 Diagnosis | Clinical + anoscopy / proctoscopy / colonoscopy if needed | Clinical inspection only |
| 🧠 Grading | Grade 1 → bleeding only Grade 2 → prolapse, reduces spontaneously Grade 3 → needs manual reduction Grade 4 → irreducible prolapse | No grades – but classified as Acute or Chronic |
| 🕒 Types | — | Acute: recent, smooth Chronic: fibrotic, sentinel pile, hypertrophied papilla, +/- fistula |
| 🧬 Etiology / Risk Factors | Constipation, straining, diarrhea, pregnancy, aging, prolonged standing, ↑ intra-abdominal pressure | High anal resting pressure (↓ perfusion), constipation, trauma, IBD (Crohn's), HIV, infections |
| 💊 Conservative Treatment | High-fiber diet + Sitz baths + topical creams (vasoconstrictors, protectants, corticosteroids) | High-fiber diet + Sitz baths + local anesthetics or soothing ointments |
| 🩺 Medical Treatment | Topical agents only (no muscle relaxants typically) | GTN ointment, Diltiazem , or Botulinum toxin to relax internal sphincter |
| 🏥 Office Procedures | Rubber band ligation (RBL), sclerotherapy, infrared coagulation, cryotherapy (rare) | None |
| 🔪 Surgical Treatment | Hemorrhoidectomy (open, closed, laser, stapled) | Lateral Internal Sphincterotomy (LIS) = gold standard Other options: fissurectomy, V-Y advancement |