

THE CLINICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF ANO-RECTAL ABSCESS IN BASRAH; A PROSPECTIVE STUDY.

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Introduction

Anorectal abscess is one of the common surgical problems of the anorectal region¹⁻⁴. It is a suppurative process of the anal canal that originates from infection of an obstructed anal gland^{5,6}. Once infection gains access to the intersphincteric space, it has easy access to the adjacent perirectal spaces⁷. Men are affected more than women with 3rd and 4th decades of life as the peak age of incidence^{7,8}. In a descending order of frequency; perianal, ischiorectal, sub-mucosal and supralelevator are abscess types according to anatomical location⁷⁻¹². The bacterial profile of an abscess, which is usually a mixed infection involving aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms, is considered as a prognostic factor for recurrent abscess and fistula formation^{1,5,7,10,13,14}. Diagnosis is made on basis of history and anorectal examination and is usually easy except in case of deep abscess^{9,15}. All cases require urgent incision and drainage^{4,16}.

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