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 region. It is a suppurative process of the anal canal that originates from infection of an obstructed anal gland. Once infection gains access to the intersphincteric space, it has easy access to the adjacent perirectal spaces. Men are affected more than women with 3rd and 4th decades of life as the peak age of incidence. In a descending order of frequency; perianal, ischiorectal, sub-mucosal and supralevator are abscess types according to anatomical location. 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. Diagnosis is made on basis of history and anorectal examination and is usually easy except in case of deep abscess. All cases require urgent incision and drainage.