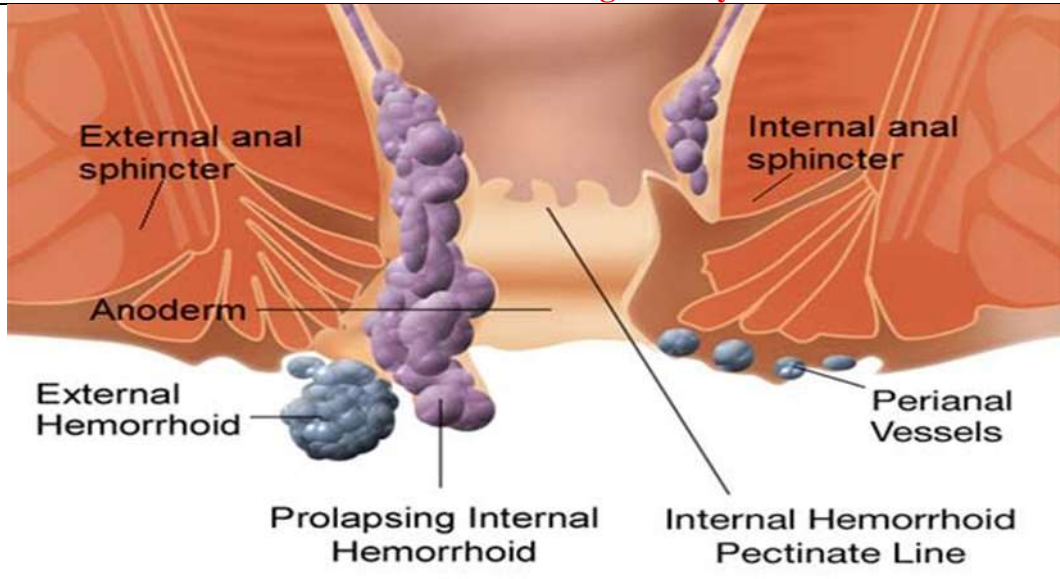


**XVII. Diseases of the Digestive System**



**Hemorrhoids (piles) III- 4. 4 2y**

*A piece of intestine* Includes parts of rectum and anal region

Shows large masses or swellings

*Swellings (piles):* Three in number  
Formed of localized enlargements of veins

*Appear in the form of:*

- Dilatation of veins
- Tortuosity and varicosity
- Sessile polypoid-like
- Dark red
- Soft (in parts)
- Slightly fleshy or firm (in other parts)

**N.B.:**  
*Sites of piles:*

1. **Internal:** Superior haemorrhoidal veins (covered by mucous membrane).
2. **External:** Inferior haemorrhoidal veins (covered by skin and mucous membrane).
3. **Both internal and external** → combined hemorrhoids.



**Causes of piles:**

1. Hereditary weakness and tendency to loss of elasticity of vasculature.
2. Prolonged standing (or sitting) and spasm of the anal musculature.
3. Chronic straining (at stools in chronic constipation; and, frequent use of powerful purgatives).
4. Repeated straining and increase in intra-abdominal pressure (coughing, chronic bronchitis, colitis, proctitis or urethral stricture).
5. Pressure on the vasculature (enlarged uterus or repeated pregnancies).
6. Pressure from senile hyperplasia of the prostate, carcinoma of the rectum or abdominal tumours.
7. **Central causes leading to prolonged or persistent increase in venous pressure within the haemorrhoidal plexus of veins:**
  - (a) Cirrhosis of the liver or hepatic disease.
  - (b) Portal obstruction → collateral anastomotic channels.
  - (c) Cardiac disease, myocarditis and weakness of the heart,

**Effects and complications:**

1. Bleeding during defecation → chronic anaemia.
2. Rectal discomfort, pain and fissure-formation,
3. Prolapse and strangulation.
4. Sloughing, ulceration, inflammation and infection.
5. Phlebitis, thrombophlebitis and formation of septic emboli → portal pyaemia.
6. Peri-rectal suppuration.
7. Fibrosis (natural cure).



Collapsed thrombosed irreducible strangulated hemorrhoids

