

On Hemorrhoids Hippocrates by Francis Adams

1disease of the hemorrhoids is formed in this way: if bile orbe determined to the veins in the rectum, it heats the bloodthe veins; and these veins becoming heated attract blood from theveins, and being gorged the inside of the gut swells outwardly,the heads of the veins are raised up, and being at the same timeby the faeces passing out, and injured by the blood collectedthem, they squirt out blood, most frequently along with the faeces,sometimes without faeces. It is to be cured thus: —

2the first place it should be known in what sort of a place theyformed. For cutting, excising, sewing, binding, applying putrefacientto the anus,-all these appear to be very formidable things,yet, after all, they are not attended with mischief. I recommendor eight small pieces of iron to be prepared, a fathom in size,thickness like a thick specillum, and bent at the extremity, andbroad piece should be on the extremity, like a small obolus. Havingthe preceding day first purged the man with medicine, on the daythe operation apply the cautery. Having laid him on his back, anda pillow below the breech, force out the anus as much as possiblethe fingers, and make the irons red-hot, and burn the pile untilbe dried up, and so as that no part may be left behind. And burnas to leave none of the hemorrhoids unburnt, for you should burnall up. You will recognize the hemorrhoids without difficulty,they project on the inside of the gut like dark-colored grapes,when the anus is forced out they spurt blood. When the cauteryapplied the patient's head and hands should be held so that henot stir, but he himself should cry out, for this will make theproject the more. When you have performed the burning, boiland tares, finely trituated in water, and apply as a cataplasmfive or six days. But on the seventh, cut a soft sponge into aslender slice, its width should be about six inches square. Thenthin smooth piece of cloth, of the same size as the sponge, is tosmearred with honey and applied; and with the index finger of thehand the middle of the sponge is to be pushed as far up as possible;afterward wool is to be placed upon the sponge so that it mayin the anus. And having girded the patient about the loinsfastened a shawl to the girdle, bring up this band from behindthe legs and attach it to the girdle at the navel. Then letmedicine which I formerly said is calculated to render the skinand strong, be bound on. These things should be kept on forless than twenty days. The patient should once a day take a draughtflour or millet, or bran, and drink water. When the patient goesstool the part should be washed with hot water. Every third dayshould take the bath. —

3method of cure:-Having got the anus to protrude as much as, foment with hot water, and then cut off the extremitiesthe hemorrhoids. But this medicine should be prepared beforehand,an application to the wound:-Having put urine into a bronze vessel,upon the urine the flower of bronze calcined and finely trituated;, when it is moistened, shake the vessel and dry in the sun. Whenbecomes dry, let it be scraped down and levigated, and apply withfinger to the part, and having oiled compresses, apply them, anda sponge above. —

4method:-There grows upon the bleeding condyloma, a protuberancethe fruit of the mulberry, and if the condyloma be far without,envelope of flesh is adherent to it. Having placed the man overround stones upon his knees, examine, for you will find the partthe anus between the buttocks inflated, and blood proceedingwithin. If, then, the condyloma below the cover be of a soft, bring it away with

the finger, for there is no more difficulty this than in skinning a sheep, to pass the finger between the hide and the flesh. And this should be accomplished without the patient's, while he is kept in conversation. When the condyloma is off, streaks of blood necessarily flow from the whole of the part. It must be speedily washed with a decoction of galls, in dry wine, and the bleeding vein will disappear along with the condyloma, its cover will be replaced. The older it is, the more easy the.

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5 If the condyloma be higher up, you must examine it with the speculum, you should take care not to be deceived by the speculum; for when, it renders the condyloma level with the surrounding parts, when contracted, it shows the tumor right again. It is to be removed smearing it with black hellebore on the finger. Then, on the third, wash it out with a dry wine. You need not be surprised that there is no discharge of blood when you remove the condyloma, for neither, you cut off the hands or legs at the articulations will there be flow of blood; but if you cut them off above or below the joints, will find there hollow veins which pour out blood, and you will find difficulty in stopping the bleeding. In the same manner, the vein in the anus, if you cut it above or below the point of separation of the condyloma, will pour forth blood; but if you remove the condyloma at its junction (with the natural parts?) will be no flow of blood. If matters then be thus put to rights, will be well; but otherwise burn it, taking care not to touch it with the iron, but bringing it close so as to dry it up, and the flos aeris in the urine.

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6 method of curing hemorrhoids:- You must prepare a cautery like a round phragmites, and an iron that exactly fits is to be adapted to it; then the tube being introduced into the anus, the iron, red, is to be passed down it, and frequently drawn out, so that they may bear the more heat, and no sore may result from the heating, the dried veins may heal up. But if you are neither disposed to nor excise, having first fomented with plenty of hot water and turned the anus, levigate myrrh, and having burnt galls and Egyptian, in the proportion of one and a half to the other things, and much of melantheria; these things are all to be used in a dry state. Hemorrhoid will separate under the use of these medicines, like a piece of burnt hide. You are to proceed thus until the whole are, and a half part of burnt chalcitis does the same thing. But if you wish to effect the cure by suppositories, take the shell of part fish a third part of plumbago, bitumen, alum, a little of flos aeris, galls, a little verdigris; having poured a small quantity of boiled honey on these, and formed an oblong suppository, apply and remove them.

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7 Hemorrhoid in a woman may be thus cured. Having fomented with plenty of hot water, boil in the water certain of the fragrant medicines, pounded tamarisk, roasted litharge and galls, and pour on them wine, and oil, and the grease of a goose, pounding all together to use after fomenting. In fomenting the anus is to be made to as much as possible. END