

Endoscopic ablation for a pilonidal sinus

Information for the public

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This procedure works well for a pilonidal sinus and there are no serious concerns about its safety.

A pilonidal sinus is a small infected cavity under the skin between the buttocks, just above the anus. It commonly contains hairs. It may cause pain, and leak blood or pus. In this procedure an endoscope (a thin flexible tube with a camera on the end) is put into the sinus. Hairs and infected tissue are removed, and the sinus is cleaned. An electrode is passed through the endoscope to deliver heat, which seals the inside of the sinus. The aim is to clean the sinus and encourage healing.

The [NHS website](#) may be a good place to find out more. NICE's information on [interventional procedures guidance](#) has more about what a procedure is and how we assess them.

Is this procedure right for me?

If you've been offered this procedure, your healthcare professionals should discuss with you what is involved and tell you about the risks and benefits. They should talk with you about your options, and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. All of this should happen before you agree (consent) to have the procedure. You should also be told how to find more information about the procedure. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Some questions to think about

- What does the procedure involve?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- What happens if the procedure doesn't work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I don't want the procedure? Are there other treatments available?

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