Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for Patients with a Seton

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Information for Patients with a Seton

Patient Information

Colorectal Surgery

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During your operation a fistula was found. This is an abnormal tunnel from the lower bowel (rectum) that opens on to the skin around your bottom.

Position of Seton



Diagram 1 Diagra

A Seton has been placed through the tunnel to help the pus drain out. This is a soft rubber-like thread that has a knot on the outside (Diagram 2). The Seton is part of the long-term treatment for your fistula and will not cure it straight away.

Benefits

The benefits of having a Seton are that it should reduce discomfort and infection around the anus.

Alternatives

There are no alternatives.

Risks

There are no risks, but you may notice a discharge from the skin. This is normal.

After the Seton has been placed

The Seton should be comfortable and should not affect bathing, swimming, going to the toilet or sexual activity. It should be left in place for a period of time, which is determined by how the fistula improves when you are seen in the out-patient clinic.

Contact information

If the Seton comes out, please contact the colorectal secretary on telephone

01942 822557 and we will arrange to replace it.



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