

## Non-surgical hemorrhoid procedure performed in Mobile touted as painless



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MOBILE, Alabama -- A hemorrhoid removal procedure that's touted as painless in more than 98 percent of cases and requires no hospital stay is winning praise from area physicians.

Dr. Steve Orleans, a gastroenterologist for 25 years who works at Diagnostics and Medical Clinic at Mobile Infirmary, said he's used several other methods to remove hemorrhoids, but switched exclusively to this one because of how well his patients have responded.

"This is that dramatically good," Orleans said.

Other physicians including Dr. Jack DiPalma at USA Gastroenterology at Infirmary West in Mobile are also performing the patented procedure.

Hemorrhoids are a widespread U.S. health issue. In fact, it's estimated that about half of all adults age 50 and older have experienced the discomfort and bleeding that typically signal the presence of hemorrhoids, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Hemorrhoids are swollen and inflamed veins in the anus and lower rectum. Common causes include constipation, pregnancy, childbirth, obesity, heavy lifting, sitting for long periods and diarrhea.

Hemorrhoids may be located inside the rectum, known as internal hemorrhoids, or they may develop under the skin around the anus, known as external hemorrhoids.

### Previous techniques were painful, required lengthy recovery

Historically, surgery to remove hemorrhoids has been extremely painful and required about 3 weeks of recovery, Orleans said.

The new banding treatment, which takes less than 10 minutes per session, uses patented equipment known as the CRH O'Reagan System.

Here's how it works: a small tube is inserted into the anal area. Then, a piece of tissue above the hemorrhoid is suctioned up and encircled with a rubber band. That leads to a decrease in the blood supply to the hemorrhoid.

Within a few days, the hemorrhoid typically falls off and the natural process of scarring brings the remaining hemorrhoid tissue back inside the anus.

The O'Reagan banding system requires no sedation and virtually no recovery time.

Patients can have the procedure and go back to work the same day, Orleans said. Most patients need 3 visits to receive complete relief.

Orleans said the banding procedure is typically covered by insurance plans, including Medicare.

Since the procedure was initiated, only 1 percent of patients have reported side effects of pain or bleeding, Orleans said. There is a 5 percent recurrence rate at five years.

That recurrence percentage is the same as for surgery, according to Orleans. "And that's about as good as you are going to get," he said.

For more information, visit: [crhsystem.com](http://crhsystem.com)