

Patient information leaflet: **Rafaelo® Procedure**

Causes and symptoms

Haemorrhoids (also known as piles) are swollen and inflamed veins in the rectum or anus. They are caused by an increase in pressure in the lower rectum from straining during bowel movements, sitting for long periods of time, chronic constipation or diarrhoea, being overweight or obese, pregnancy, low-fibre diet, spinal cord injury or poor posture.

Haemorrhoids are common and occur in most people at some stage during their lives. They tend to occur more frequently later in life due to age-related weakening and stretching of the tissues supporting the veins in the rectum. Typical symptoms are pain, itching and bleeding around the anal area.

Pioneering Haemorrhoid Treatment

The Manchester Haemorrhoid Centre provides the Rafaelo® Procedure, a minimally invasive treatment option for haemorrhoids that requires minimal after-care.

The Rafaelo® Procedure

The Rafaelo® Procedure is an excellent alternative to surgery because it is minimally invasive, has low risk of pain and it allows patients to leave as soon as the procedure is finished. By using radio frequency ablation technology, your consultant colorectal surgeon will be able to reduce the size of the haemorrhoid and eliminate your symptoms.

The Manchester Haemorrhoid Centre is one of just a few providers in the north west who offer the Rafaelo® Procedure. It is recommended for all grades of internal haemorrhoids, however in some extreme cases some haemorrhoids may only be reduced and not completely removed.

To avoid experiencing any discomfort, you will receive a local anesthetic before the procedure. Once the area is numb, radio frequency energy will be applied with the use of an anoscope to each haemorrhoid which will reduce the blood flow to it, making it shrink and disappear. The procedure can take as little as 15 minutes and requires minimal aftercare.

A new, highly successful treatment for haemorrhoids

The Rafaelo® Procedure is highly recommended because:

- It is a walk-in, walk-out treatment that does not require an overnight stay
- It is minimally invasive
- The procedure requires minimal aftercare
- It relieves symptoms immediately
- It presents good long-term results



Once the procedure is complete, most patients can usually return to their normal daily activities straight away, but depending on the haemorrhoid grade, a day or two of rest may be recommended.

Other Treatment Options

Please note that the Rafaelo® Procedure may not be suitable for everyone. More serious or repeat cases of haemorrhoids may require medication or a surgical procedure, with around one in every ten people eventually needing surgery. As well as Rafaelo®, we offer a wide range of surgical treatment options that can be used to treat haemorrhoids, which all usually involve either removing the haemorrhoids or reducing their blood supply, causing them to shrink. The Manchester Haemorrhoid Centre also offers other traditional surgical treatment options for Haemorrhoids. These include banding, Botox Injection Therapy, Sphincterotomy, Stapled Haemorrhoidectomy, Open Haemorrhoidectomy, and ilonidal Sinus Surgery.

Who are we?

The Manchester Haemorrhoid Centre provides a comprehensive, expert diagnostic and treatment service for a wide aspect of surgical procedures. From minor surgery to fibre-optic endoscopy, bowel cancer surgery, advanced keyhole 'laparoscopic' surgery and ground-breaking treatment for haemorrhoids and colorectal disorders, our team are highly experienced and leaders in their field.

Find Out More

Based at BMI The Alexandra Hospital, The Manchester Haemorrhoid Centre provides a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment service for haemorrhoids and other colorectal disorders. To find out more about your treatment options or to make a self-referral, please telephone us on **0161 495 7046** or email halo.surgeon@bmichoice.co.uk to speak to a member of our team.

