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Safety and effectiveness of Anal Fistula Plug for Anorectal Transsphincteric Fistulas: preliminary results

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Anorectal Fistula: Background

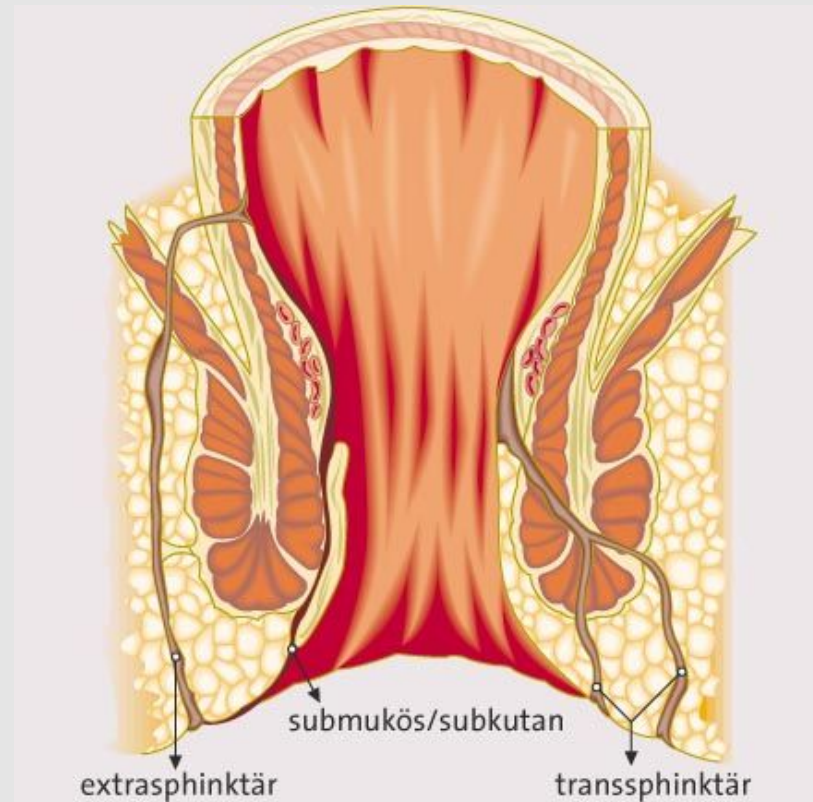
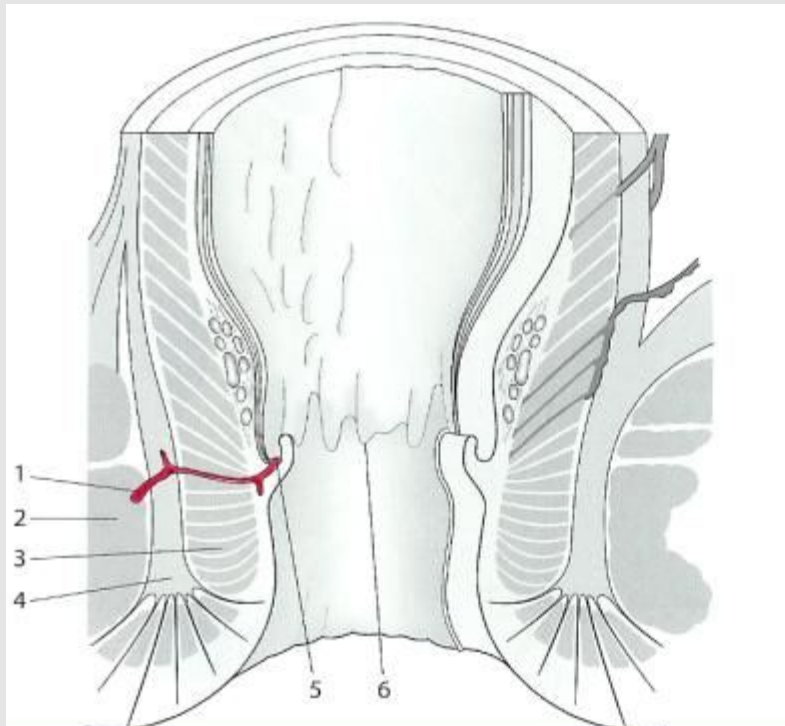


Anorectal Fistula: Background

- fistula surgery is challenging
- effectiveness (closure)
- recurrence
- fecal incontinence



Anorectal Fistula: Parks classification



Anal Fistula Plug: Methods

- prospective study (standardized protocol)
- closure of transsphincteric fistulas with AFP (Surgisis™ AFP, Cook Deutschland)
- end points: OR time, morbidity, recurrence, QoL (EQ-5D, FIQoL)
- follow-up time planned: 12 months



Anal Fistula Plug: inclusion vs. exclusion criteria

included:

- transsphincteric fistula
- Crohn`s fistula
- single-tract fistula

excluded:

- superficial fistulas amenable for fistulotomy
- complex, multi-tract fistulas
- concomitant anorectal abscess



Anal Fistula Plug: Surgical technique

- identification of internal and external opening using a fistula probe
- irrigation of fistula tract with antiseptic fluids (Lavasept)
- closure of fistula with AFP (tip-first into the internal opening), fixation (Vicryl 2/0) and closure of internal opening (Vicryl 3/0)
- „lay-open“ of external opening





Anal Fistula Plug: Surgical technique (Video)



Anal Fistula Plug: Surgical technique



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- OP-Bilder einfügen



Anal Fistula Plug: Surgical technique

- no curettage
- no fistulectomy
- no mucosa flap
- no closure of external opening
- no bowel preparation



Anal Fistula Plug: Results

- first procedure: August 30, 2006
- AFP: n=8 (Crohn`s disease n=4)
- all transphincteric fistulas
- previous surgery: mean 3 anorectal procedures
- 5 males, 3 females, mean age 44 years
- general anesthesia, single-shot AB prophylaxis
- mean OR time 15 min.
- mean hospitalization 2 days



Anal Fistula Plug: Results

- no morbidity
- no recurrence
- o further anorectal sepsis (abscess)
- no fecal incontinence
- 3-months follow-up:
significant improvement in QoL
(EQ-5d, FIQoL)



Anal Fistula Plug: Conclusion

- **promising new technology for closure of anorectal fistulas**
- safe and effective for Crohn`s anorectal fistulas
- avoids the risk of fecal incontinence
- long-term results have to awaited

