

# Colorectal Surgery

## Expert Diagnosis and Treatment

Anorectal conditions affect both men and women of all ages. A variety of diseases can cause symptoms of rectal bleeding, pain and difficulty with bowel function. Though patients may often believe that their symptoms are caused by hemorrhoids, an accurate history and evaluation of this sensitive area is essential to determine an effective treatment.



The office suite of (left to right) Fred Slezak, M.D., and Joel Porter, M.D., includes examination tables, such as the one pictured, that are specifically designed for anal rectal evaluation.

When a patient finally seeks help for rectal bleeding or acute anal pain, primary care physicians can turn to the colorectal surgeons who practice at Summa Health System. Board-certified colorectal surgeons Joel Porter, M.D., and Fred Slezak, M.D., specialize in providing diagnosis and treatment of lower gastrointestinal complaints. Their expertise eliminates the need to involve additional specialists, which improves patient care by enabling earlier management of diseases and disorders known to affect the colon, rectum and anus.

Because these specialists realize that certain fears, anxieties and embarrassment plague a patient who is experiencing acute anal pain, office schedules are regularly adjusted to accommodate patients within 24 hours. Using examination tables specifically designed for anal rectal evaluation, proper lighting and unique diagnostics, an in-office visit often results in an immediate diagnosis and treatment of a patient's condition.

In many cases, treatment can also be provided in-office. However, Drs. Porter and Slezak provide advanced patient care at Summa's Albert F. Gilbert Surgical Pavilion.

For treatment of the simplest to the most complex colorectal problems, these physicians can expedite the management of these conditions for their patients, thus alleviating pain and anxiety sooner.

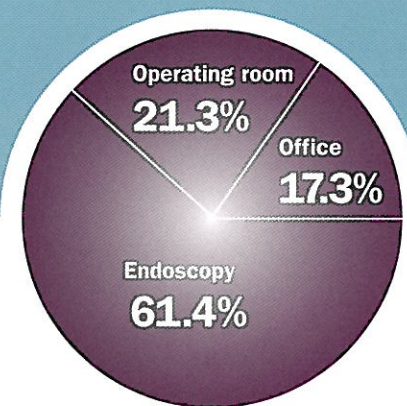
## A Variety of Progressive Treatment Options

**Operating room:** Colorectal problems requiring surgery include colon cancer, diverticulosis and its complications, rectal prolapse, fissures, hemorrhoids and fistulas.

**Office procedures:** Many colorectal problems can be treated in-office. Treatments can include rubber band ligation of hemorrhoids, excision of thrombosed hemorrhoid or drainage of abscesses.

**Endoscopy:** To appropriately diagnose a patient, endoscopy can be used to visualize and obtain tissue specimens. Most; benign polyps can be removed with the colonoscope, eliminating the need for major surgery.

*Surgical Statistics: Figures represent total numbers of specific surgical procedures. (Period 1/1/99 – 12/31/99)*



  
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