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# A sound solution

» Cassie Zachariou

HAEMORRHOID PATIENTS could experience less pain and a quicker recovery following surgery thanks to innovative technology being used by the Trust.

A new type of probe with an ultrasound device attached is being used to surgically treat haemorrhoids, which are swollen blood vessels in the lower rectum and anus.

The instrument allows surgeons to locate and tie bleeding arteries in the lower rectum and then hitch haemorrhoids (commonly known as piles) back inside the body.

Colorectal surgeon Gordon



**This is potentially a real breakthrough for the treatment of an extremely common condition**

Buchanan said: "We have done 30 cases so far and nearly all have been able to return home on the same day as surgery.

"Most of the patients told us they experienced relatively little or no discomfort following surgery and 60 percent were back to normal activities within four days.

"This is in contrast to traditional haemorrhoid surgery which is painful and patients can take up to six weeks to recover fully."

Mr Buchanan added: "Some of my patients who previously shied away from surgical treatment are now opting to do so because of the better outcomes this new technique offers.



"This is potentially a real breakthrough for the treatment of an extremely common condition."

Patient Simon Danciger, 47, who had the procedure, said: "I was up and about within hours of the operation and two days later I was doing marathon training again.

"I felt virtually no pain, discomfort or restriction of movement – I was really surprised at how well it went."

## Haemorrhoids

- » It is estimated that up to 25 percent of the population is affected by haemorrhoids
- » Anyone can develop them but they are most common in the over 45s and in pregnancy
- » Haemorrhoids can cause bleeding when going to the toilet, itchiness and pain