



SKIN AND BEAUTY

with Dr Ingrid Tall



EMBARRASSING BODY ISSUES

ANAL OR RECTAL skin tags are (usually) harmless growths that appear around the anus. Sometimes mistaken for warts or piles (haemorrhoids), these growths can be embarrassing and annoying. With one in two Australians suffering from haemorrhoids, this is a common but rarely-talked-about problem.

The issue may arise due to a lesion, anal injury or the skin left behind after haemorrhoid treatment. Although not a health risk, anal skin tags can make it difficult to maintain cleanliness after using the toilet. They may also become irritated through rubbing of clothing or movement during exercise.

Anal skin tags can be removed with a radio-frequency diathermy machine. This is a simple local anaesthetic procedure which takes approximately half an hour.

Please note this is not a treatment for haemorrhoids and if rectal bleeding has occurred, a clinical assessment by a general practitioner is necessary to exclude a potentially more serious underlying condition.