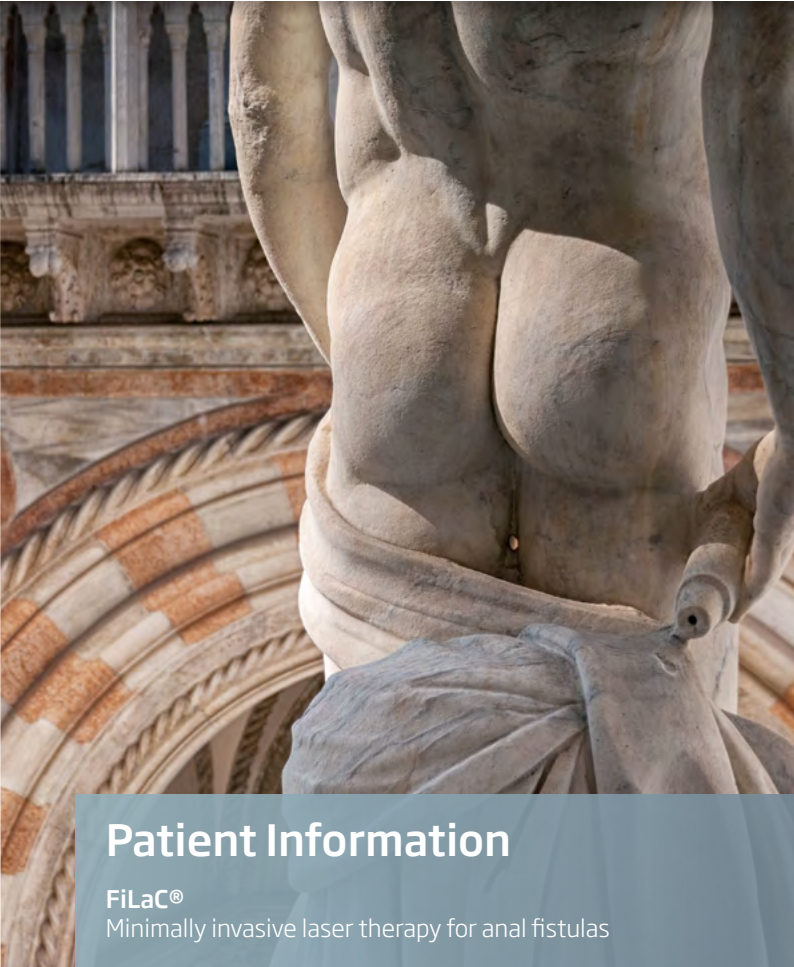


Do you suffer from anal fistulas ?

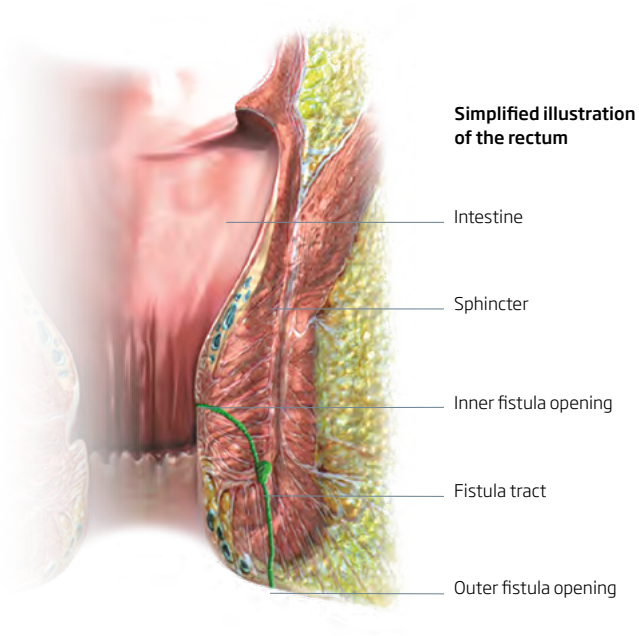


Patient Information

FiLaC[®]

Minimally invasive laser therapy for anal fistulas

What are anal fistulas and what causes them ?



A fistula is an unnatural tract connecting a hollow organ (e.g., the intestine) to the skin surface (e.g., at the buttocks) or another hollow organ.

An anal fistula is a tract that connects the rectum and the skin on the buttocks. Through the external opening, pus or, in special cases, even faeces can be excreted.

It is supposed that anal fistulas originate from small glands in the anus. When they get infected, the result is a pus-filled cavity, which opens up a way for discharge.

Anal fistulas may also occur as a consequence of radiation therapy.

How does the surgical treatment proceed ?

A proctologist can make a diagnosis using a digital exam or ultrasound. Medical specialists recognize the outer opening of a fistula already by simply viewing the anal region. The inner opening of the rectum is palpated as nodules. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can also be used to view fistula tracts and adjacent smaller abscesses.

Anal fistulas rarely heal without surgery. Therefore, surgical therapy is the treatment of choice. The inflammatory tissue must then be peeled out as completely as possible.

The surgical technique of choice depends first of all on the course of the fistula. The (fistula) tract can either run under the mucous membrane (by-passing the sphincter muscle) or break through the sphincter muscle partially or completely.

In addition, there are also rarer fistula types, unlike the types mentioned above, which must be treated individually.

In most cases, anal fistulas can only be completely removed by **surgery**.

What happens during surgery ?

Usually, surgery is performed under spinal or general anesthesia.

Various procedures are available:

- Splitting of the fistula tract (fistulotomy)
- Cutting out the fistula and covering with a membrane lappet

Depending on the type of fistula and the surgical method, scientific studies have shown many **side effects**:

- Up to 9% of patients suffer from **postoperative complications** after conventional surgery.¹
- After surgery with membrane lappet coverage, 21% of patients experience **recurring anal fistulas**.²
- After fistula cleavage, approximately 18 - 52% of patients suffered from **continence disturbance**, which can lead to social and psychological stress.³

References from:

- ¹ Vasilevski, CA, Anorectal abscess and fistula, In: David E. editor, Beck et al (eds), The ASCRS textbook of Colon and Rectal Surgery, 2nd ed. New York; Springer 2011, pp 219-244.
- ² Van Koperen, PJ, Wind, J, Bemelman, WA, Bakx, R, Reitsma, WA, Slors, JF, Long-term functional outcome and risk-factors for recurrence after surgical treatment for low and high perianal fistulas of cryptoglandular origins, Dis Colon Rectum 2008 Oct; 51(10):1475-81.
- ³ Van Tets, WF, Kuijpers, HC, Continence disorders after anal fistulotomy, Dis Colon Rectum 1994; 37: 1194-1197.

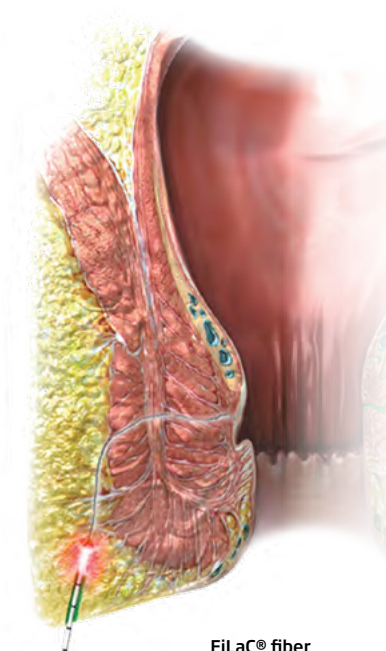
Muscle-sparing laser treatment with FiLaC®*

For the most muscle-friendly therapy for anal fistula, there is now the FiLaC® laser therapy of the fistula tract.

During laser therapy, a defined energy is introduced into the fistula tract through an innovative laser probe. The fistula tissue is thus destroyed in the gentlest way and does not have to be tediously extracted by the surgeon during a complex surgery.

The laser probe is slowly pulled back, and the fistula is being closed. The extremely flexible probe is suitable for the application even in wound tracts and is completely independent from the length of the fistula tract.

The laser treatment takes only a few minutes and provides the possibility of completely sparing the enucleation of out healthy tissue.



**FiLaC® fiber
laser treatment**

* **FiLaC®** is the abbreviation for **Fistula-tract Laser Closure**, which means the closure of the anal fistula due to the use of a laser.

How does the laser treatment proceed ?

After inserting the laser probe into the fistula tract, the laser destroys the fistula tissue and closes the tract.

The treatment is nearly painless and the period of recovery is noticeably shorter than with conventional surgical procedures.

FiLaC® fiber

**Unique
FUSION® technology
from biolitec®**

The silica glass caps by biolitec® are fused to the fiber instead of merely glued.

That way we offer maximum stability and safety during your therapy.

Which advantages does FiLaC[®] offer ?

FiLaC[®] offers the following advantages to you and the attending physician:

- Maximum protection of the sphincter and thus preservation of continence
- No excision or cleavage of the fistula tract necessary
- Faster wound healing and faster return to everyday life activities
- Optional combinable with different methods of therapy

Benefit from the gentle therapy method of anal fistula treatment.

Ask your doctor about the possibilities of treating fistulas with laser.

Ask for FiLaC[®].

For more information about the FiLaC® treatment don't hesitate to contact us: +49 6172-27159-11. You will receive medical information directly from your doctor.

Your doctor on site

Visit our website:
www.info-anal-fistula.com



biolitec biomedical technology GmbH
Tel.: +49 3641 51953 0
Fax: +49 3641 51953 33
info@biolitec.de
www.biolitec.com