**Background**

Hemorrhoids occur when the veins surrounding the rectum (called the hemorrhoidal plexus) become dilated. They can be present internally or externally, and are resected when they become painful and bleed. The specimen consists of one or more fragments of cauterized anal mucosa with submucosa containing dilated—and sometimes thrombosed—blood vessels.

**Procedure**

1. Count the number of tissue fragments and measure each one or give a range if greater than 3.
2. Describe the appearance of the anal mucosa and document any lesions.
3. Serially section each fragment and examine the cut surfaces. Record the presence of any dilated vessels and if they are thrombosed.
4. Submit representative sections in one cassette. Additional cassettes may be necessary if there are any lesions.

**Sample Dictation**

A. “Hemorrhoids” Received in formalin is a 1.8 x 1.3 x 0.7 cm sessile tissue fragment, which is partially surfaced by congested mucosa. Sectioning reveals multiple dilated vascular channels filled with dark red blood. No organized thrombi seen.

Cassette Summary:

A1. Two representative sections (2ss)