

Anal Examination Diagnostic Flowchart

This interactive diagnostic flowchart helps you diagnose anal conditions, such as anal cancer and outlines the likely diagnoses.

START



Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

YES

NO

Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

See
likely
diagnosis

Pain

Lump

Bleeding

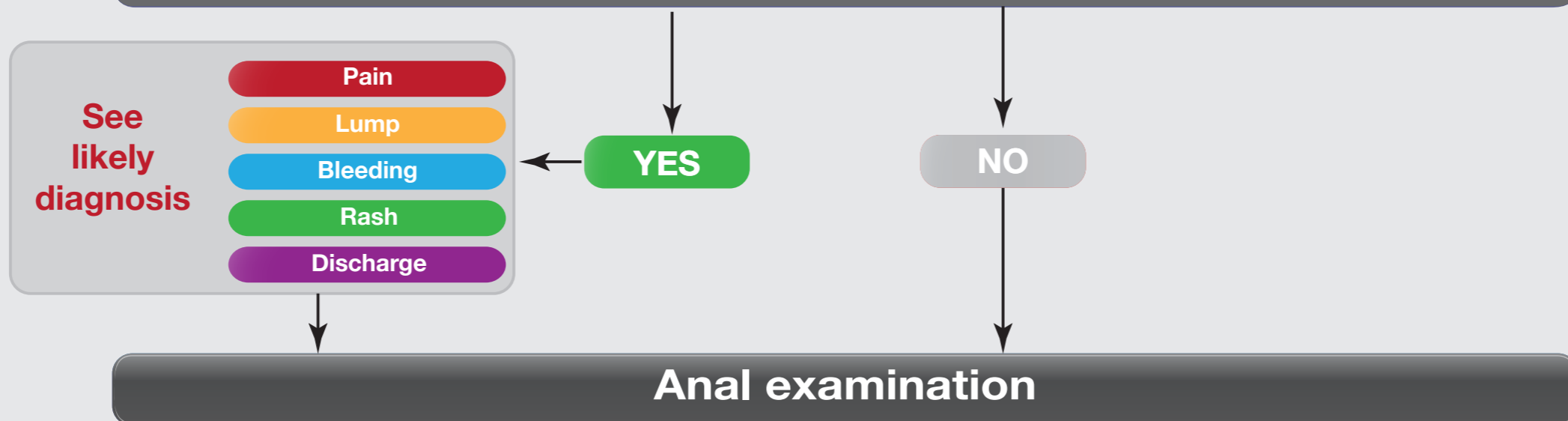
Rash

Discharge

YES

NO

Anal examination



Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

- See likely diagnosis
- Pain
 - Lumps
 - Bleeding
 - Rash
 - Discharge

YES

NO

Anal examination

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

- See likely diagnosis
- Pain
 - Lumps
 - Bleeding
 - Rash
 - Discharge

YES

NO

Anal examination

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

See likely diagnosis

Pain

Lumps

Bleeding

Rash

Discharge

YES

NO

Anal examination

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

Rash
Ulcer
Lump

Features of potential anal cancer

Firm lump >5 mm

Indurated ulcer

Plaque

Bleeding

Friable mass

Painful mass

Palpable inguinal lymphadenopathy

No features of malignancy
Happy with diagnosis

TREAT

Manage and review as indicated
or

Refer to colorectal surgeon

Anal examination diagnostic flowchart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

See likely diagnosis

Pain

Lumps

Bleeding

Rash

Discharge

YES

NO

Anal examination

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

Hard lump
(suspicious of anal cancer)

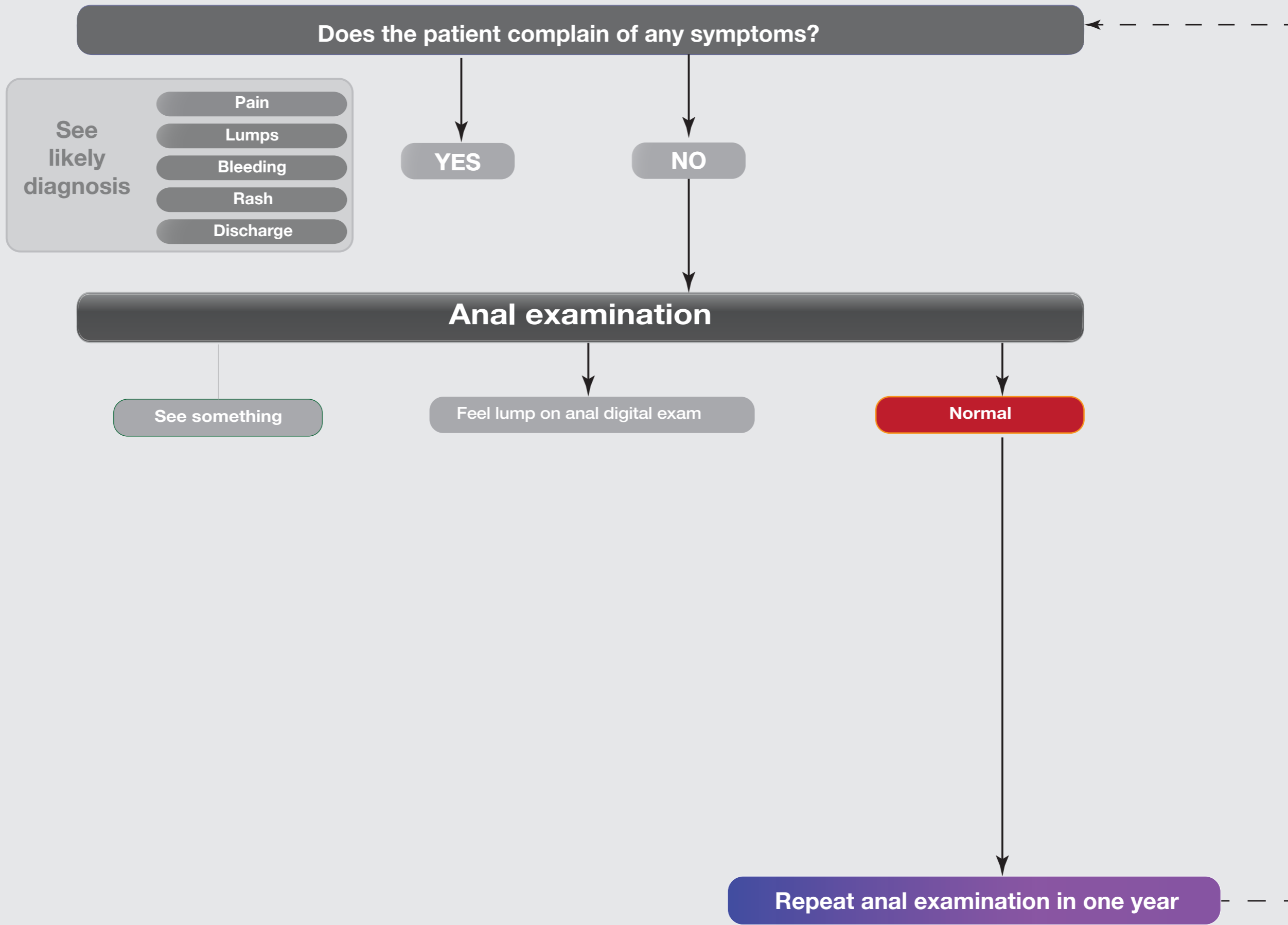
Soft lump

TREAT

Manage and review
as indicated
or

Refer to colorectal surgeon

Anal examination diagnostic flowchart



Likely diagnosis What is the patient complaining about?

Pain	Lump	Bleeding	Rash	Discharge
<p>Pain alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anal fissure • Anal herpes • Ulcerative proctitis 	<p>Lump alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin tag • Warts • Anal cancer • Haemorrhoid 	<p>Bleeding alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal haemorrhoids • Colorectal polyps • Colorectal cancer • Anal cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psoriasis • Eczema / Dermatitis • Candidal infection • Folliculitis • Lichen sclerosis • Lichen planus • Scabies • Tinea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STIs - Chlamydia - Gonorrhoea - LGV • Anal fissure • Perianal abscess
<p>+ Haematoma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perianal Haematoma • Strangulated internal haemorrhoid • Abscess (perianal or ischiorectal) • Pilonidal sinus 	<p>+ Haematoma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perianal haematoma • Strangulated internal haemorrhoid • Abscess (perianal or ischiorectal) • Pilonidal sinus 	<p>+ Pain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anal fissure • Proctitis 		
<p>+ Bleeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anal fissure • Proctitis 	<p>+ Bleeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemorrhoid • Anal cancer 	<p>+ Lump</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemorrhoid • Anal cancer 		
<p>+ Lump + Bleeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemorrhoid • Ulcerated perianal haematoma 	<p>+ Bleeding + Pain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemorrhoid • Ulcerated perianal haematoma 	<p>+ Lump + Pain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemorrhoid • Ulcerated perianal haematoma 		