

Question 3 – Week of March 3

Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding the condition shown in this figure?



- A. Cure of this condition requires surgery.
- B. This condition results in recurrent abscess and infections.
- C. Incision and drainage along with antibiotics is sufficient therapy.
- D. This process is related to anorectal pathology.

Answer: D

The pictures are of pilonidal disease. While the etiology of this condition is unknown, it results in recurrent infections and drainage from one or more sinuses overlying the sacrum. Infection manifests as recurring abscess that responds to incision and drainage, and at times to antibiotics. However, the underlying process, the epithelialized cyst remains in place. Surgical excision is necessary for cure. This condition does not communicate with the anal canal or rectum and though close in proximity, has no known relation to anorectal disease.

References:

1. Mackeigan JM, Pilonidal Sinus, in Fazio et al, Current Therapy in Colon and Rectal Surgery, Second Edition, 2005, Elsevier-Mosby, Philadelphia, 41-44.
2. Chinn BT. Outpatient management of pilonidal disease, in Seminars in Colon & Rectal Surgery, Cintron J Editor, Vol 14:4, Dec 2003, pp166-172.