



Anorectal Manometry

Anorectal manometry is a test to measure how well the rectum and anal sphincters function work in eliminating stool.

Common reasons for the test are difficulty passing stool, fecal incontinence, constipation and Hirschsprung's disease in children. The anal sphincter has an internal and external sphincter, which helps to control stool passing. These sphincters are made of muscles that control the opening and closing of the anus.

During the test, a catheter will be inserted through the anal opening and into the rectum. The small balloon at the tip of the catheter is then gradually inflated, which causes the nerves and muscles in the rectum and anus to begin to squeeze. The end of the tube remains outside of the anus and is connected to a machine that records the contractions and relaxations of the rectum and anal sphincter.