CAROLINA 😌 HEALTHCARE LEADERS

## Compassionate Digestive Care

Serving Greater Charlotte for over 35 years, Carolina Digestive Health Associates is a one-stop shop for digestive health.

ommon digestive problems cause women to suffer in silence, unaware of painless cures. Fortunately, Carolina Digestive Health Associates offers convenience and tailored treatments to help alleviate discomfort.

"With 13 gastroenterologists, eight locations, and five endoscopy centers, patients anywhere in Charlotte have access to their doctor close to home," says Victoria Rothwell, M.D.

Carolina Digestive Health's expansive network creates convenience and ease for its patients. Every physician at the clinic practices at all major Charlotte metropolitan hospitals, allowing physicians to easily follow patients throughout their course of care. "There's something nice about having hospital affiliations," says Dr. Rothwell. "If a patient requires admission to the hospital, they'll see familiar faces from our clinic, so they can know that they're in good hands."

## Hemorrhoid Treatment in a Flash

When patients are suffering from hemorrhoids, Dr. Rothwell commonly recommends a procedure called hemorrhoid banding. "Many people suffer from internal hemorrhoids, especially women after pregnancy," she explains.

A misconception is that hemorrhoid treatment requires a surgical hemorrhoidectomy. Because of this misunderstanding, many women with symptoms use conservative, over-the-counter products in place of specialized care, which often leave them with painful symptoms.

Hemorrhoid banding can be performed quickly and nonsurgically. "The procedure takes a minute to perform and is 95% effective. It's painless with no prep or recovery time," explains Dr. Rothwell. "It consists of three sessions two to three weeks apart and is covered through most insurance plans."

As a woman, Dr. Rothwell is especially mindful of her female patients, allowing them to feel at ease when



discussing symptoms. "Many women are uncomfortable talking about digestive problems and feel more comfortable talking to a female physician," Dr. Rothwell says. "I strive to make them feel at ease."

## **Stop Suffering in Silence**

When it comes to digestive health, no problem is too small to be seen. "All too often, patients come in with symptoms they've had for years, suffering in silence as part of their daily lives, unaware of treatment," Dr. Rothwell says. "I want them to know that living in pain isn't normal—we can help."

Dr. Rothwell encourages patients to seek treatment the first time they experience symptoms. Even minor digestive discomfort can become a chronic reoccurring issue that can signify a treatable medical condition. Fast and efficient treatment options can be recommended on an as-needed basis. Monitoring a patient's digestive health long-term also prevents problems that can occur simply due to changes in the patient's age and lifestyle. "We can figure out what's going on, get them feeling better, and improve their quality of life," she concludes. "We're here for them."



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704-372-7974 carolinadigestive.com