### Rectal Bleeding

**Developed by**: American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)

**How developed**

A consensus panel was convened by the AGA. Literature (see below) was reviewed and recommendations were established.

- Penner RM, Majumdar SR. Approach to minimal bright red bleeding per rectum in adults. Up to Date, August 30, 2012

**Additional essential patient information**

Description of the rectal bleeding: {choice of one}
- Hematochezia / BRBPR without pain
- Hematochezia / BRBPR with pain
- Fecal Occult Blood Positive, no visible rectal bleeding
- Melena

Characteristics of the rectal bleeding:
- Blood occurs with bowel movement {yes/no}
- Blood does not occur with a bowel movement {yes/no}
- Blood is a small amount on the tissue or stool {yes/no}
- Blood is mixed with stool {yes/no}
- Associated with abdominal cramping {yes/no}
- History of anal trauma or anal intercourse {yes/no}

Family History of Colon or Rectal Cancer, polyps, familial adenomatous polyposis, hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer {yes/no}
- First degree relative [whom], age of diagnosis

Physical exam (anal fissure, hemorrhoids, prolapse, mass)
### Rectal Bleeding (continued)

**Additional patient information, if available**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ferritin</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Serum Iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TIBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Endoscopic examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anoscopy? [when] findings ________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flexible Sigmoidoscopy [when] findings ________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Colonoscopy [when] findings __________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Radiologic examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Barium enema [when] findings __________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Alarm symptoms/conditions**

A patient with hemodynamic instability should be referred for urgent evaluation.

**Tests/procedures to avoid prior to consult**

None provided

**Common rule-outs to consider prior to consult**

None provided

**Relevant “Choosing Wisely” elements**

None provided

**Healthcare professional and/or patient resources**

Healthcare Professional Information:

- [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1490043/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1490043/)
- [http://www.asge.org/assets/0/71542/71544/58665951d9cd44f48bd8fb58f23c3848.pdf](http://www.asge.org/assets/0/71542/71544/58665951d9cd44f48bd8fb58f23c3848.pdf)

Patient Information: