

# Sigmoidoscopy

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Although sigmoidoscopy is strictly an examination of the rectum, it should always be performed as rectal pathology is frequently associated with an anal lesion (e.g. anal fistula); not infrequently, rectal pathology is found independent of the anal lesion. Summary box 80.2 Examination of the anus /uni25CF /uni25CF

Figure 80.4 Various types of proctoscope. (Redrawn with permission from Mann CV. Surgical treatment of haemorrhoids . London: Springer, 2002.) A rectal examination is essential for any patient with anorectal and/or bowel symptoms - 'If you don't put your /f\_i nger in, you might put your foot in it' A proctosigmoidoscopy (rigid or /f\_l exible) is essential in any patient with bowel symptoms

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