

# Venous drainage

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The superior haemorrhoidal veins draining the upper half of the anal canal above the dentate line pass upwards to become the rectal veins; these unite to form the superior rectal vein, which later becomes the inferior mesenteric vein. This forms part of the portal venous system and ultimately drains into the splenic vein. Middle rectal veins exist but are small, unimportant channels unless the normal paths are blocked.

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