

Anatomy & Physiology: Muscles—External Anal Sphincter.

STRUCTURE.

- Origin: anococcygeal ligament.
- Insertion: perineal body of perineum.
- Spans above and below the pectinate (dentate) line.

FUNCTION.

- Concentric action: keeps anal canal and anus closed.
- Isometric action:
- Innervation: sacral spinal nerve S4 and inferior rectal branch of pudendal nerve.
- Arterial supply: superior rectal artery, contributions from middle rectal and median sacral arteries (above dentate line); inferior rectal artery from internal pudendal artery (below dentate line).

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

References

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