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# Digital Rectal Examination

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Digital Rectal Examination*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C17631.

An examination that checks for abnormalities of organs or other structures in the pelvis and lower abdomen. During a digital rectal exam, a health professional inserts a lubricated, gloved finger of one hand into the rectum and may use the other hand to press on the lower abdomen or pelvic area.