Kansas City, Mo. (UPI) — Minor surgery was performed on third baseman George Brett Thursday to alleviate an external hemorrhoid problem. Brett, 23, is expected to be back in the Royals' lineup for Friday night's game.

Dr. John Hayer, a Kansas City gynecologist, performed the surgery on Brett, who described it as a "ticking of an external hemorrhoid," and it is expected that the major league's leading hitter will be back in the Royals' lineup for Friday night's game.

"I'm a little bit better tonight," said Brett, "but I'm going to have to get up on my butt tomorrow (Friday) night," said Brett. "However, basically it's up to him and how he feels."

Dr. Hayer said Brett will remain at St. Luke's Hospital Thursday and possibly overnight and that he was receiving medication to relieve the symptoms. He added that Brett would probably experience some discomfort for a few days and he could not guarantee that the problem would not occur again.

"There are no guarantees in medicine," said Dr. Hayer. "But the pain is definitely less than what it was before the procedure." Brett said he was not too concerned about the procedure and was receiving medication to relieve the symptoms.

"We are just trying to keep him off his feet and in his sack of sausage," said Dr. Hayer. "If we are an accountant, or working any kind of regular job, he could go back to work in a few days. We don't see any reason why he wouldn't be able to play Friday night."

With Brett's discomfort seemingly resolved, the Royals will now face the challenge of how to best use their lineup with the return of Brett's power.

"If Brett is better, he will play tomorrow (Friday) night," said Dr. Hayer. "However, basically it's up to him and how he feels."