Skin Tear Laceration Care

A skin tear is when the top layer of skin is peeled off. This happens more often as people get older. To repair the skin, your doctor may use:

- Tape.
- Skin adhesive strips.

Sometimes, the peeled skin will grow back. The skin may turn black and die. The torn skin acts as a good covering until the skin underneath repairs itself.

HOME CARE

- If you or your child has a bandage, it may be changed once a day or as your doctor tells you. If the bandage sticks, it may be soaked off with soapy water.
- Be careful. Try not to injure the skin.
- Only take medicine as told by your doctor.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- There is redness, puffiness (*swelling*), or increasing pain in the wound.
- Pus is coming from the wound.
- You notice a bad smell coming from the wound.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4º F (38º C) or higher.**

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your or your child's last tetanus shot was.
- You or your child has never had a tetanus shot.
- The object that caused the wound was dirty.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch this condition.
- Will get help right away if you or your child is not doing well or gets worse.

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