Dog Bite

Dog bites have a high rate of infection, so they require thorough cleaning. Dog bites may become infected in spite of good cleaning. The teeth carry germs (*bacteria*) below the skin surface. Bites may require tetanus and rabies vaccines. The animal should be confined for ten days to make sure there is no development of rabies. Medications which kill germs (*antibiotics*) may be required.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT NOW IF:

- You have no idea when you had the last one.
- You have never had a tetanus shot before.
- Your wound had dirt in it.
- If you need a tetanus shot, and you choose not to get one, there is a rare chance of getting tetanus. Sickness from tetanus can be serious.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep wound clean, dry and covered as suggested by your caregiver.
- You may need to report the event to animal control or your local police.
- Keep injured part raised above the level of the heart as much as possible.
- Limit use of the injured area as directed.
- If antibiotics were prescribed, take them as directed and finish the prescription.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- Follow instructions for follow-up with your caregiver. Any delay in obtaining necessary care could result in a serious infection.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- Pus is coming from wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- Stitches *(suturing*) were required, and there is a breaking open of the *wound* (edges not staying together) after stitches have been removed.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You feel sick to your stomach (*nausea*), or have vomiting, chills or a high temperature.
- Pain prevents joint from moving when the bite is near a joint.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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