Bite, Brown Recluse Spider
(Loxosceles Reclusa)

You may have been bitten by a brown recluse spider. It is most easy to determine this if you are able to identify the brown recluse, as its bite may appear the same as other spider bites. It has the following characteristics. The spider may be from dark brown to light tan in color. It has a band of darker color shaped like a violin on its back. The whole spider (with legs) may grow to the size of a quarter. It lives undercover outdoors and in out-of-the-way places indoors. The sores (*lesions*) caused by bites may vary from a non cancerous (*benign*) swollen area to an area of tissue death up to 12 inches (30 cm).

Brown Recluse Spider

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.

If you got a tetanus shot, your arm may swell, get red and warm to the touch at the shot site. This is common and not a problem.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS
- Avoid scratching the bite area. Keep the area clean and covered with an adhesive bandage or sterile gauze bandage.
- Wash the area daily in warm soapy water.
- Apply an ice pack or cool compress for twenty to thirty minutes 3 to 4 times per day. Keep the bite area raised above the level of your heart. This helps reduce swelling. **DO NOT** use heat. No anti-venom is available.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:
- Your symptoms do not improve in 24 hours or are getting worse.
- You have increasing pain to the bite area (even though it may not look worse).

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:
- The bite area appears to be getting larger (more than 1/4 inch or 5 mm), growing deeper, or appears infected.
- You have chills and/or an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), or you feel sick to your stomach (*nausea*), have vomiting, muscle aches, weakness, extreme tiredness, convulsions, or measles-like or red, raised rash.
- Your urine output decreases.
- You have blood in your urine or notice other unusual bleeding.
- Your skin turns yellow.

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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