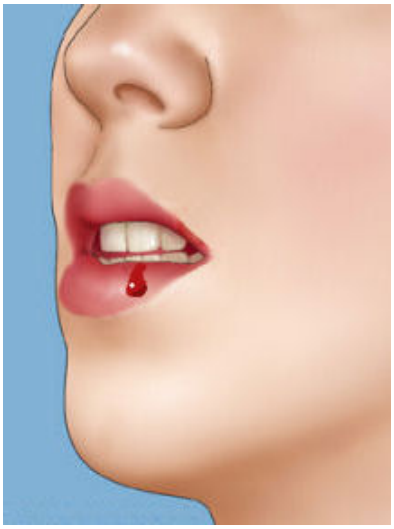
Open Wound - Lip

An open wound is a break in the skin caused by an injury. An open wound to the lip can be a scrape, cut, or hole (*puncture*). Good wound care will help to:

- Lessen pain.
- Prevent infection.
- Lessen scarring.



Wounds that are on the lip may need to be watched more closely than wounds on other parts of the body. Be sure to follow up as told.

HOME CARE

- All bits of dirt must be washed off.
- Wounds should be cleaned daily with gentle soap and water.
- Apply antibiotic ointment after the wound has been cleaned, as told by your doctor.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You see increased redness or puffiness (*swelling*) in or around the wound.
- There is increasing pain.
- 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 see a pus-like fluid (*drainage*) coming from the wound.
- Very bad pain develops that is not controlled with medicine.
- You see a red line on the skin above or below the wound.

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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