Marine Life Bite

Some marine animals may bite or sting (for example, jellyfish, sharks, eels, man-of-war, or sea anemones). Some may be poisonous (for example, lionfish, scorpionfish, stonefish, blue-ringed octopus, or cone shell). Others may cause wounds when you come in contact with them (for example, sea urchin, crown of thorns, or coral). All of these injuries may be very painful.

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 decide 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

- If stung by a stonefish, lionfish or scorpionfish, immerse the injured area in water as hot as is tolerable without burning yourself.
- Keep the wound raised above the level of your heart to decrease pain and swelling. Do not use the wounded area.
- Keep wound dressed, clean and dry.
- To change the dressing, unwrap it slowly and carefully. If it sticks, soak with lukewarm water. Rinse the wound and pat dry with a clean towel.
- Clean the wound 2 to 3 times a day with hydrogen peroxide and water in equal parts, or warm, soapy water.
- Have your wound rechecked in one day or as directed by your caregiver.
- If you have stitches, return for their removal in 7 days or as directed.
- If you have been given a tetanus shot, your arm may get swollen, red and warm to the touch at the injection site. This may be a normal response to the medicine in the shot.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF: you have increased bleeding from the wound.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have signs of infection (increased pain, inflammation, swelling, pus, a bad smell, or red streaks coming from the wound).
- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests, and is not controlled by medication.
- You have numbness or swelling below the wound, or you cannot move the joint below the wound.
- You have shortness of breath, tongue swelling, tightness in the chest, raised red patches on the skin that itch, dizziness, weakness, nausea, diarrhea, headaches or seizures. *You may be having an allergic reaction.*

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