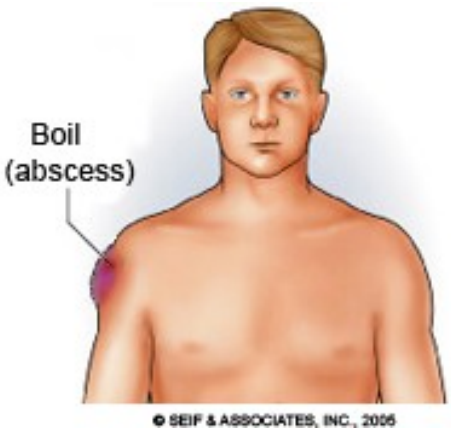
Abscess/Boil
(Furuncle)

An abscess (*boil or furuncle*) is an infected area under your skin that has fluid (*pus*) in it. It can occur in any part of the body. Symptoms include pain, tenderness, and redness. You may also feel a moveable, soft area under the skin.



TREATMENT

Usually, an abscess will need to be drained. To drain the abscess, your doctor will make a cut over the abscess. The fluid is then drained out. Gauze may be packed into the space. A drain may also need to be put into the abscessed area to help the wound heal from the inside out.

If the abscess does not need to be drained, follow up with your doctor if it does not get better on its own.

HOME CARE

- Take all medicine as told by your doctor.
- Keep the skin and clothes clean around the abscess.
- If a bandage has been placed over the abscess, remove it when bathing or showering. If the bandage sticks, soak it off with warm, soapy water. Once in the bath or shower, wash the wound gently with water and a mild soap. Repack and put on a new bandage as told by your doctor.
- If a drain has been placed, you will need to follow up with your doctor to have the drain removed.
- The infection may spread by skin contact with others. Avoid skin contact as much as possible.
- If a draining area cannot be covered:
  - **Do not** participate in sports.
  - Children should not go to day care until the wound has healed or until fluid (*drainage*) stops coming out of the wound.
- See your doctor for a follow-up appointment as told.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- There is more pain, puffiness (*swelling*), and redness in the wound site.
- There is fluid or bleeding from the wound site.
- You or your child has signs of an infection. These signs include muscle aches, chills, fever, or a general ill feeling.
- You see new skin lumps.
- 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.**

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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