Cat Bite

Cat bites have a high rate of infection, so they require thorough cleaning. Cat bites may become infected in spite of good cleaning. Cat teeth are narrow and sharp and act like a needle injecting 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 dressed 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.
- 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.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You feel sick to your stomach *(nausea*), or have vomiting, chills or a high temperature.
- Pain prevents joint from movement 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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