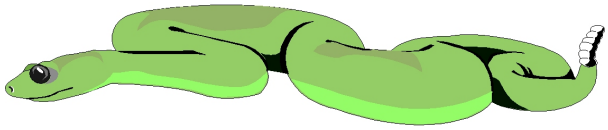
Snake Bite

A non-poisonous snake bit you and caused a skin wound, or an unknown type of snake bit you and injected a small amount of poison or no poison at all into your skin.

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 cut 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.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS



- Keep the bite area clean and dry.
- Keep the extremity elevated above the level of the heart for the next 48 hours.
- Wash the bite area 3 times daily with soap and water or an antiseptic. Apply an adhesive or gauze bandage to the bite area.
- If you develop blistering of any type at the site of the bite, protect it from breaking. Do not attempt to open it.
- If you were given a tetanus shot, your arm may get swollen, red and warm at the shot site. This is a common response to the injection.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:

- You develop symptoms of poisoning including: increased pain, redness, swelling, blood blisters or purple spots in the bite area, nausea, vomiting, numbness, tingling, excessive sweating, breathing difficulty, blurred vision, feelings of light-headedness, or feeling faint.
- The bite becomes infected. Symptoms may include: redness, swelling, pain, tenderness, pus, and red streaks running from the wound, or an oral temperature over 102° F (38.9° C) develops.
- Your condition or wound deteriorates in any way.

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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