Puncture Wound

A puncture wound happens when a sharp object pokes a hole into (*pierces*) the skin. You are more likely to get an infection from a puncture wound because germs are carried deep below the skin. It is best to see your doctor after a puncture wound, even if it is small. A puncture wound needs to be cleaned well. If anything is in the wound, it will need to be taken out.

HOME CARE

- Watch the wound for signs of infection. You may need to do this for up to 2 weeks.
- Wash your hands before you change the bandage.
- Clean and bandage the wound as told by your doctor.
- Take medicines (*antibiotics*) that kill germs as told by your doctor. Take them until they are gone.
- **Only take medicine as told by your doctor.**

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your or your child's last tetanus shot was.
- You or your child has never had a tetanus shot.
- The object that caused the wound was dirty.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- There is redness or puffiness (*swelling*) around the wound, or it feels warm.
- Yellow or tan fluid (*drainage*) is coming from the wound.
- The bandage has a bad smell.
- The area below the wound turns numb.
- 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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