Lacerations on the Face

A laceration is a deep cut. Lacerations need special care to reduce scarring.

HOME CARE

- Clean the cut with a clean cloth and warm, soapy water.
- Apply antibacterial ointment to the cut as told by your doctor.
- Remove scabs and crusts with a warm, wet washcloth, or as told by your doctor.
- Use sunscreen/sunblock for the next 3 to 6 months. This will help stop the scar from getting dark.
- **Do not** wear makeup on the cut until it has healed.

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:

- Redness, pain, or puffiness (*swelling*) happens around the cut.
- There is yellow fluid (*pus*) coming from the cut.
- 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.**
- You or your child has the chills.

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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