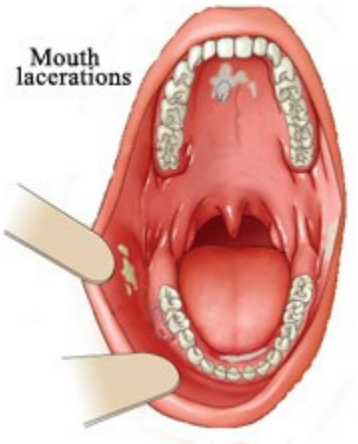
Laceration Care (Inside Mouth)

A laceration is a cut. Because of all of the germs (*bacteria*) in the mouth, lacerations are not often stitched (*sutured)* unless the wound is gaping open. Sometimes, a couple sutures may be placed just to hold the edges of the wound together and speed healing. It is normal to see some pus-like drainage on the laceration during the healing process.



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. *If you got a tetanus shot, your arm may swell, get red and warm to the touch at the shot site. This is common and not a problem.*

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Rinse your mouth with a warm salt water wash 4 to 6 times per day, or as your caregiver instructs.
- Continue oral hygiene and gentle teeth brushing the same as always. Continue unless this is impossible to do because of the cut in your mouth.
- Do not eat or drink hot food or beverages while your mouth is still numb.
- Maintain a bland diet to avoid irritation from acidic or other annoying foods.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- You may need to see a caregiver for a wound check in 48 to 72 hours to make sure your wound is healing.
- If your laceration was sutured, do not play with the sutures or knots with your tongue. If you do this, they will gradually loosen and may become untied.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is swelling or increasing pain in the wound or in other parts of your face.
- You have an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C).
- You develop swollen, tender glands.
- The wound edges do not stay together after the sutures have been removed.

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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