Sliver Removal

You have had a sliver (splinter) removed. This has caused a wound that extends through some or all layers of the skin and possibly into the *subcutaneous tissue*. This is the tissue just beneath the skin. Because these wounds can not be cleaned well, it is necessary to watch closely for infection.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

If a cut (*incision*) was necessary to remove the sliver, it may have been repaired for you by your caregiver either with suturing, stapling, or adhesive strips. These keep the skin edges together and allow better and faster healing.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- A dressing may have been applied. This may be changed once per day or as instructed. If the dressing sticks, it may be soaked off with a gauze pad or clean cloth that has been dampened with soapy water or hydrogen peroxide.
- It is difficult to remove all slivers or foreign bodies as they may break or splinter into smaller pieces. Be aware that your body will work to remove the foreign substance. That is, the foreign body may work itself out of the wound. That is normal.
- Watch for signs of infection and notify your caregiver if you suspect a sliver or foreign body remains in the wound.
- You may have received a recommendation to follow up with your physician or a specialist. It is very important to call for or keep follow-up appointments in order to avoid infection or other complications.

If you did not receive a tetanus shot today because you did not recall when your last one was given, **check with your caregiver in the next day or two during follow up to determine if one is needed**.

Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

If antibiotics were prescribed, be sure to finish all of the medicine.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- The area around the wound has new or worsening redness or tenderness.
- Pus is coming from the wound
- There is a foul smell from the wound or dressing
- The edges of a wound that had been repaired break open

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Red streaks are coming from the wound
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops.

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