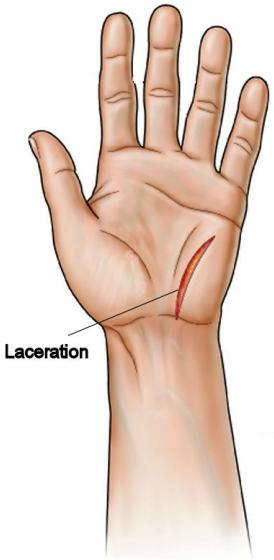
Laceration Care Using Tissue Adhesive

A laceration is a cut or incision that extends through all layers of the skin and into the tissue just beneath the skin (*subcutaneous tissue*).



© SEF & ASSOCIATES, INC., 2005

This has been repaired using tissue adhesive. Tissue adhesive holds the skin together and allows faster healing. It forms a strong bond on the skin in about a minute and reaches its full strength in about two and one half minutes. Sometimes stitches (absorbable) may need to be used beneath the skin if the wound is deep and needs additional help in being held together.

Showers and baths are allowed after tissue adhesive has been applied but do not use soaps or ointments on the wound until it has healed. **DO NOT SOAK** the area containing the tissue adhesive: this includes swimming and soaking in a bath or any prolonged exposure under water. The adhesive disappears naturally while healing, as do absorbable stitches, so there is no need to schedule an office visit for their removal. Follow up is required if your caregiver wants to recheck for infection and to make sure your wound is healing properly.

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

- Minor redness, swelling and discomfort are common in all wounds.
- Keep the bandage dry if one has been applied.
- If a dressing has been applied, replace it daily until the adhesive has fallen off.
- Do not scratch, pick at or rub the adhesive.
- Do not place tape over the adhesive as the adhesive could come off when pulling the tape off.
- Protect the wound from further injury until it is healed.
- Protect the wound from sun and tanning bed exposure while it is healing and for several weeks after healing.
- Protect the wound with a clean dry bandage as necessary.
- Call the caregiver with any concerns.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by the caregiver.
- If your caregiver has scheduled a follow-up appointment, it is very important to keep that appointment. Not keeping the appointment could result in a chronic or permanent injury, pain or disability. If there is any problem keeping the appointment, call the facility.
- 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.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, increasing pain in the wound or a red streak that extends from the wound.
- Pus is coming from the wound.
- You or your child has an oral temperature 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.**
- There is a foul smell coming from the wound.
- The wound or adhesive breaks open or the edges of the wound come apart.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

Document Released: 04/07/2004 Document Re-Released: 03/14/2011
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.