Wood Tick Bites

Ticks are insects that attach themselves to the skin. Sometimes, ticks carry diseases that can make a person very ill. The most common places for ticks to attach themselves are the scalp, neck, armpits, waist, and groin. Ticks must be removed as soon as possible to help prevent diseases.

Wood Ticks
(Larger Than Actual Size)

REMOVING A TICK

- Put on latex gloves before trying to remove a tick.
- Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
- Pull gently until the tick lets go. Pull the tick off in one motion. **Do not** twist the tick or jerk it suddenly. This may break off the tick's head or mouth parts.
- **Do not** crush the tick's body. This could transfer diseased fluids from the tick into your body.
- After the tick is removed, wash the bite area and your hands with soap and water.
- Apply a small amount of antiseptic cream or ointment to the bite site.
- Wash any tools that were used.
- Save the tick in a jar or plastic bag to bring to the doctor if necessary.
- **Do not** apply a hot match, petroleum jelly, or fingernail polish to the tick. This may increase the chances of disease from the tick bite.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your last tetanus shot was.
- You have never had a tetanus shot.
- Your bite site was dirty.

GET HELP IF:

- You cannot remove a tick or part of the tick is left in the skin.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C).
- You or your child has redness and puffiness (*swelling*) in the area of the tick bite.
- You or your child has tender, puffy lymph glands.
- You or your child has watery poop (*diarrhea*).
- You or your child loses weight.
- You or your child has a cough.
- You or your child is more tired than normal.
- You or your child has muscle, joint, or bone pain.
- You or your child has belly (*abdominal*) pain.
- You or your child has a headache.
- You or your child has a rash.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- You or your child has trouble walking or moving his or her legs.
- You or your child loses feeling (*numbness*) in his or her legs.
- You or your child has shortness of breath.
- You or your child becomes confused.
- You or your child throw ups (*vomit*) many times.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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