Fish Hook Removal

A fish hook has resulted in a small cut or lesion that extends through all layers of the skin and into the subcutaneous tissue. Because of this, germs *(bacteria*) may have been injected beneath the surface of the skin. A dressing such as a simple Band-Aid may have been applied. This should be changed daily. Follow your caregiver's instructions regarding use of any antibacterial ointments.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Redness, swelling, or increasing pain is in the wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- Pus is coming from wound.

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

If you did not receive a tetanus shot from your caregiver because you did not recall when your last one was given, make sure to check with your physician's office and determine if one is needed. Generally for a “dirty” wound, you should receive a tetanus booster if you have not had one in the last five years. If you have a “clean” wound, you should receive a tetanus booster if you have not had one within the last ten years.

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