Wound Care

Good wound care will help reduce pain and prevent infection. Puncture wounds and deep cuts are more likely to become infected than scrapes and abrasions. There is a greater chance of infection if the injured person is diabetic and/or has a weakened immune system (such as when a cancer patient is being treated with chemotherapy and/or radiation).

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

General wound care treatment includes:

- Rest and elevate the injured area until the pain and swelling are better.
- All foreign material like bits of dirt must be washed off.
- Wounds should be cleaned daily with gentle soap and water.
- Dressings may be needed to protect the wound from further damage.
- Apply antibiotic cream or ointment after the wound has been cleaned.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:

- Increased redness or swelling in or around the wound.
- Increasing pain.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:

- Temperature of 102°F (38.9° C) or higher.
- A pus like drainage from the wound.
- Severe pain not controlled with non-prescription or prescription pain relievers.
- Inability to move fingers or toes if the wound affects these areas.
- Red streaking of the skin extending above and/or below the wound.

A tetanus shot may be needed if you have not had a booster within the past 5 years.

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