Dog Bite

Germs (*bacteria*) can easily get into (*infect*) a dog bite, even with very good cleaning. For that reason, your doctor may put you on a medicine (*antibiotic*) that kills germs. You may also need tetanus and rabies shots.

HOME CARE

- Keep the wound clean, dry, and covered as told by your doctor.
- You may need to report the bite to your local police.
- Keep the area raised (*elevated*) above the level of the heart as much as possible.
- Limit use of the injured area as told.
- Take medicine as your doctor told you to. Take it until it is gone.
- Only take medicine as told by your doctor.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your or your child's last tetanus shot was.
- You or your child has never had a tetanus shot.
- The object that caused the wound was dirty.

GET HELP IF:

- There is redness, puffiness (*swelling*), or more pain in the wound.
- Fluid (*pus*) is coming from the wound.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C).
- You notice a bad smell coming from the wound or bandage (*dressing*).
- The wound breaks open after the stitches are removed (if you or your child had stitches).

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child feels sick to his or her stomach (*nauseous*).
- You or your child throws up (*vomits*).
- You or your child has chills.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Pain prevents you or your child from moving a joint near the bite.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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