Fingertip Laceration

The treatment of fingertip injuries depends on how large the cut is and whether the bone or nail tissue has been damaged. Amputations of the skin over the tip of the finger that is smaller than a dime (smaller than 1cm) will usually heal very well from the sides without any treatment other than cleaning the wound and changing the dressing.

Keep your hand elevated for the next 2-3 days to reduce pain and swelling. A splint over the fingertip may be needed to protect your injury. If your cut is being allowed to heal in from the sides, you should soak it in warm water and change the dressing daily.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There are any signs of infection: increased redness, swelling, and pain, or sometimes pus drainage.

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. *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.*

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