

# Sutured Wound Care

Cuts and wounds can be closed with stitches (*sutures*). The stitches may need to be removed or may go away on their own.

## HOME CARE

- Keep the wound area clean and dry. Clean the wound gently with soap and water once a day after the first 48 hours.
- Remove any bandages (*dressings*) in 5 days or as told by your doctor.
- **Do not** stretch the wound.
- **Do not** put medicine or medicated cream on your stitches unless your doctor told you to.
- See your doctor to have the stitches removed, if this applies.
- Use sunscreen or sunblock on the wound after it heals. This will decrease the darkening of the scar.



## You might need a tetanus shot now if:

- You cannot remember when you had your last tetanus shot.
- You have never had a tetanus shot.
- The injury broke your skin.

If you need a tetanus shot and you choose not to have one, you may get tetanus. Sickness from tetanus can be serious.

## GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- The wound gets red, puffy (*swollen*), hot, or tender.
- Yellowish white fluid (*pus*) starts to come from the wound.
- You have chills and start to shake.
- The wound starts to bleed.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102° F (38.9° C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.**

## MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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