

Minor Wound Care

Definition:

A wound occurs when the skin is broken. A minor wound typically does not need medical treatment; it is one that is small and sufficiently clean so that the edges can be easily approximated using tape.

Treatment:

- Wash your hands well so that you do not further contaminate the wound.
- Wash area well with warm soapy water for about 60 seconds or longer, making certain that dirt and foreign bodies are removed. Rinse well with tepid water. Blot dry with a 4 x 4 gauze.
- Apply a small amount of antibiotic ointment, such as bacitracin, is optional.
- Cover with a loose bandage that will keep out the dirt, or a Band-Aid. Change the bandage/Band-Aid whenever it is loose or dirty, and at least one time a day.
- Check to be sure that you have had a tetanus shot in the past 10 years.

When to see a Healthcare Provider:

- If you have any signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, or drainage from the wound, or if you have fever.
- If you are uncertain when or if your tetanus shot has been more than 10 years ago.
- The wound is:
 - located on the face
 - penetrating deep into the skin
 - involving other tissues so that you lose sensation, motion, or bleed a lot
 - made by a very dirty object

To make an appointment at Student Health Services, 910.521.6219.

