**EmergencyKT: Bite Wounds**

**History of Absorbed Tetanus Toxoid Doses**
- Td  TIG
- <3 or unknown  Yes  Yes
- ≥ 3  No*  No

*If given within past 5 years

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**Bite History**

**Physical Exam**

Tetanus prophylaxis per protocol (Figure 1)
Rabies prophylaxis per protocol
Pain relief as indicated

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**Assess ABC’s**

Resuscitation as indicated

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**Non-Hand**

Evaluate for Complications:
Vascular, nerve, tendon, cosmetic injuries
(Consider X-Rays as indicated)

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Evidence of complicated injury?

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Yes  
Appropriate Consult

---

IV Antibiotics (See Table 2)
Pain relief
Cover wounds with saline moistened 4X4 gauze pads

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No  
Irrigate wound with copious amounts of sterile saline (~50-100 cc/cm²) with splash guard

---

Prophylactic antibiotics
Follow-up in 2-4 days

---

**Hand**

Evaluate for Complications:
Nerve, tendon, artery, joint, Fight Bite
Note: Not all patients admit to fight bites
(Consider X-Rays as indicated)

---

Evidence of complicated injury?

---

Yes  
Appropriate Consult

---

No  
Irrigate wound with copious amounts of sterile saline (~50-100 cc/cm²) with splash guard

---

Prophylactic antibiotics
Follow-up in 2-4 days

---

**Indications for sutures**

**Low Risk Patients** (See Table 1)
Cosmetic Concerns
- Use Nylon/Prolene
- Do not use Deep Suture
- Prophylactic Antibiotics

**High Risk Patients** (See Table 1)
Cosmetic Concerns
- Consider delayed closure
- Cleanse wound
- Prophylactic Antibiotics
- Return in 3-5 days for closure
### Table 1

**High Risk Wounds**
- Puncture Wounds
- Bites to hand and wrists
- Crush wounds with devitalized tissue
- Injuries to the genitals

**High Risk Patients**
- Immunosuppressed
- DM
- Splenectomy, cirrhosis
- Post mastectomy
- Rheumatoid arthritis and prosthetic joints

### Table 2

**Prophylactic Antibiotics**

*First Line*
- Amoxicillin/Clavulanate 875/125 PO BID

*Alternatives*
- Doxycycline 100mg PO BID
- Cefuroxime 500mg PO BID

**IV Antibiotics**

*First Line*
- Ampicillin/Sulbactam 3.0g IV Q6

*Alternatives*
- Piperacillin/tazobactam 3.375g IV Q6
- TMP/SMZ 5mg/kg IV Q12 plus clindamycin 600mg IV Q8