

A Guide for Patients and Families

Abscess Wounds



What is an Abscess?

An abscess is a painful collection of pus that is caused by a bacterial infection or foreign materials.



Abscess may be found in any area of the body, but most abscess requiring urgent attention are found on the feet and hands, buttock, breast, area around the anus or from a hair follicle.

Treatment of Abscess

Most abscess can be treated with antibiotics. Depending on the type and size of the abscess, a drainage procedure, or surgery to remove the pus may be required.



After surgery, the wound is usually left open to allow any remaining or new pus to be drain out. Depending on the condition of the wound, a wound dressing may be applied.

Care of Surgical Abscess Wound



- ◆ Complete the prescribed course of antibiotics.
- ◆ Change wound dressing regularly according to instructions.
- ◆ If the wound is over the area around the anus, flush wound with water each time when contaminated with stool or urine.
- ◆ **DO NOT** smoke as smoking affects wound healing.
- ◆ Seek medical consultation as soon as possible when there are signs of infection, wound breakdown or if condition worsens.



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