

NON-TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

Accidents involving motor vehicles can cause injuries that are sometimes not apparent at the time of the accident. Some of these injuries can be serious and are difficult to detect unless there is further testing and evaluation by a physician. These injuries include, but are not limited to head, neck, back, chest or abdominal injuries. Lacerations (cuts) and bruising are common and may require further care and evaluation. Good wound care and sutures (stitches), if required, will improve the healing of your wound, help prevent an infection, and may prevent permanent difficulty or inability to use an arm or leg normally.

You have decided not to be transported by ambulance to a medical facility following a motor vehicle accident. Please contact your doctor if any of the following signs or symptoms develops:

- Increased pain to any body area
- Drowsiness or increased irritability
- Persistent or bad headache
- Unequal pupils
- Weakness or loss of feeling in arms or legs
- Bleeding or discharge from the nose or ears
- Neck or back pain
- Swelling, numbness or tingling
- Nausea and vomiting
- Vision problems
- Speech or hearing difficulty
- Difficulty walking
- Twitching or convulsions
- Confusion, loss of memory, or loss of consciousness

Actions:

1. Awaken the patient every hour for the next 24 hours to make sure he/she can be easily aroused and can answer simple questions (name, birth date, etc.).
2. Do not take any sedatives, alcohol, or pain medications without checking with a doctor. Check with your doctor if you are taking aspirin on a regular basis.
3. Apply cold to any tender/painful area.
4. If the paramedics/EMTs have recommended, or you feel you should be evaluated for possible stitches, **you should seek medical attention as soon as possible, and within 6 hours of the injury.**
5. Clean the wound and keep it clean. Wash the wound with soap and water 2 - 3 times a day. Do not soak.
6. After washing, you may apply a small amount of an antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin (available without prescription). Do not apply any ointment if you will be seeking immediate medical attention.
7. Cover the wound with gauze dressing. Band-Aids make the skin wet and increase the chance of infection.
8. Ibuprofen (such as Advil) or acetaminophen (such as Tylenol), if you are not allergic, may be taken as directed for pain or discomfort. Avoid taking aspirin (check with your doctor if you are currently taking aspirin on a regular basis).
9. Contact your doctor if it has been more than five years since your last tetanus shot or if you are uncertain when your last shot was. If needed, a tetanus shot should be given within 24 hours of the injury.
- 10. Contact an ambulance again by calling 911 if your condition worsens.**