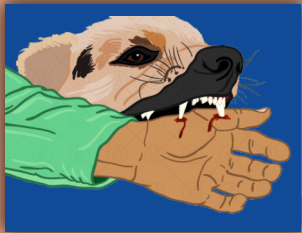




Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(Government of India)

Importance of wound washing for dog/animal bite cases

Reducing the risk of Rabies infection



Rabies is a deadly viral disease, transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, primarily following bites.



Washing wounds with copious amounts of water is a vital step in the post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies. It helps in removing saliva containing the rabies virus from the wound site.



The removal of the virus eliminates the risk of infection. Also, the use of soap by its lipolytic action inactivates the rabies virus.



Wound washing also cleanses the dirt, reduces bacterial load, and thus minimizes the chances of secondary infection.



The National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) recommends immediate wound washing with soap and water upto 15 minutes and applying disinfectant to the wound/s to minimize the risk of rabies infection.

Step-by-step instructions for Wound Washing procedure

1.



Wash/flush all the wound/s immediately (or as soon as possible) under running water for up to 15 minutes.

2.



Use soap to wash the wound/s.

3.



After thoroughly washing and drying the wound with sterile gauze, apply any disinfectant.

4.



Do not touch the wound with bare hands.

5.



Wound-washing procedure must be performed even if the patient reports late.

6.



Application of irritants such as chili, oils, turmeric, lime, salt, ash, etc. on the bite wound is strictly prohibited.

7.



For further rabies prophylaxis like vaccine administration, etc. refer to the nearest healthcare facility.

Important: Cauterization of the wound/s with acids/ alkalis /flame/heat/etc is strictly prohibited.

Note: Please consult your doctor immediately.

NATIONAL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMME



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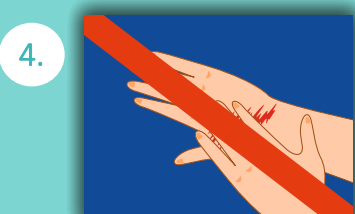
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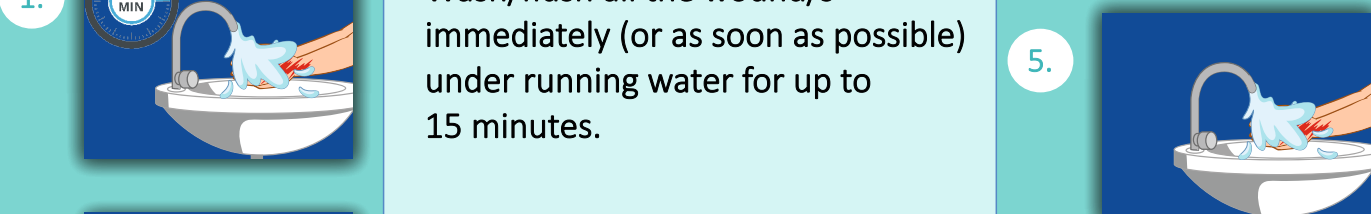
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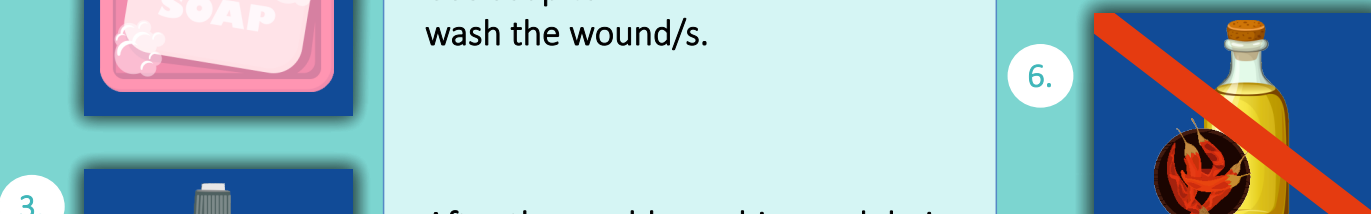
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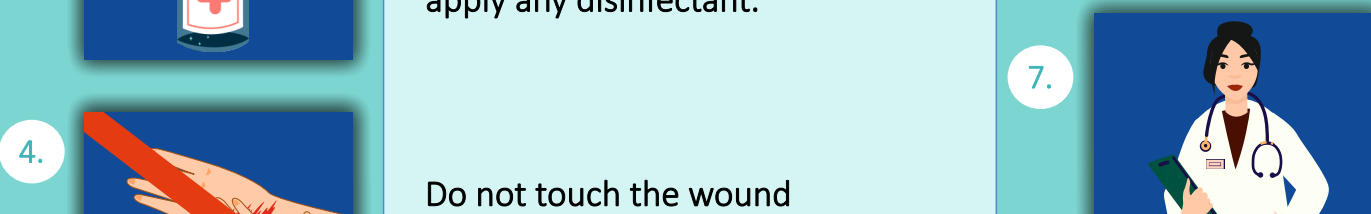
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