

TETANUS DISEASE "LOCKJAW"

The importance of knowing more

Learn about influenza (flu).



1

WHAT IS TETANUS DISEASE?

Tetanus is an infection caused by bacteria. When the bacteria invade the body, they produce a poison (toxin) that causes painful muscle contractions. Another name for tetanus is "lockjaw". Tetanus often causes a person's neck and jaw muscles to lock, making it hard to open the mouth or swallow.



2

HOW IS TETANUS TRANSMITTED?

Spores of tetanus bacteria are everywhere in the environment, including soil, dust, and manure. The spores develop into bacteria when they enter the body. They can enter through injuries from contaminated objects like nails, needles, heavy machinery, as well as dirt, poop (feces), or saliva.



3

WHAT ARE TETANUS SYMPTOMS?

Tetanus can lead to serious health problems. Symptoms include: jaw cramping, sudden involuntary muscle tightening (often stomach), painful muscle stiffness, trouble swallowing, seizures, headache, fever and sweating, blood pressure and heart rate changes. Breathing difficulty can be fatal.



4

HOW IS TETANUS DIAGNOSED?

Doctors can diagnose tetanus by examining the patient and looking for signs and symptoms. There are no lab tests that confirm tetanus.



5

HOW IS TETANUS TREATED?

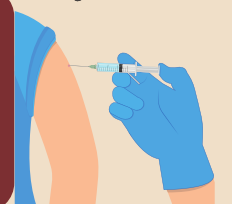
Tetanus is a medical emergency requiring care in the hospital. Immediate treatment can include wound care, antibiotics, tetanus vaccination, muscle spasm control.



6

HOW TO PREVENT TETANUS?

Being up to date with your tetanus vaccine is the best tool to prevent tetanus (booster every 10 years). Another way is to clean and disinfect wounds. Do not delay first aid even for minor, non-infected wounds or burns.



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