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Taking Care of a Cut: For People Taking Blood Thinners

What do I do when I cut myself at home?

Minor injuries to the skin are common but rarely an emergency. In patients using blood thinners, it often takes longer than normal for the bleeding to stop. Most of the time, bleeding can be stopped by following the steps below:

1. Remain calm.
2. Hold direct pressure over the cut with gauze or a clean rag.



3. Elevate the cut so that it is above your heart.
4. After 15 minutes of continuous pressure, check to see if the cut is still bleeding. If still bleeding, apply an over-the-counter product to seal the wound and stop the bleeding.

Make sure you have an over-the-counter styptic (anti-bleeding) powder available at all times to stop bleeding. This over-the-counter powder effectively stops bleeding in patients on blood thinners. See your local pharmacist for more information.

When should I go to the emergency room or contact 911?

Seek **immediate attention**:

- If the wound is bleeding heavily, large, deep and/or dirty
- If the wound does not stop bleeding after following the instructions in this pamphlet and holding pressure for 30 minutes
- If you have other concerning symptoms such as numbness or severe pain
- If signs of infection develop such as redness, swelling or pus drainage

If you go to emergency room, tell the nurse or doctor that you are taking a blood thinner.

When should I call my anticoagulation provider?

Please call your anticoagulation provider if you are unsure whether your cut requires medical attention, or if you have any questions.