

LACERATION ✓

Laceration is the separation of skin with relatively sharp edges. It is a combination of a contusion & a lacerated wound in which the lacerated edge is jagged & irregular.

Treatment :-

- 1) After it has been determined that there is no underlying injury, the first goal in management is to obtain a clean wound. A laceration caused by a blow of a blunt object against a sharp underlying bone, as in the eyebrow, represents simply a splitting of the skin without penetration & is probably completely cleaned by the bleeding which accompanies it.
- 2) A wound that has direct contact with the ground must be promptly and thoroughly cleaned. Simple flushing of the wound with saline or 0.5 percent procaine solution will usually be adequate.
- 3) The wound edges should be carefully inspected. Often the wound edges do not cut cleanly through the skin at a right angle, but it is a slicing type with a very thin edge on one side & a thick sloping edge on the other. In this careful minimal

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Trimming of the skin margins in order to get sharp edge to edge contact will speed up healing & prevent excess scar formation.

4. If there are undermined edges & considerable soft tissue damage beneath the skin, the wound may require drainage.
5. Direct Pressure serves to prevent edema of the wound edges.
6. The wound should be carefully inspected daily over a period of several days, since it is potentially infected & should be treated as such.
7. If there is any suggestion of a collection of fluid in the wound, one or more stitches should be removed, & the wound allowed to drain freely.
8. Once there is evidence of any complication, more protection should be utilized & the inflamed wound must be treated by the usual measures of immobilization, warm wet dressings, antibiotics, and general support.
9. Antitetanic serum of human origin is now available & should be used if toxoid immunity has not been developed previously.