



Wilderness First Aid Scenario

WOUND WITH INFECTION**Victim 1 – Youth Victim, Infected Wound at Florida Sea Base****SUMMARY**

You are an adult leader sailing with your crew on a catamaran as part of a Bahamas adventure at Sea Base. It is the fifth day of a 10-day sailing trek. There are 14 Scouts aged 14–17, four adult leaders, and one adult captain. Each day, you sail to a new location and set anchor to explore the area, snorkel, swim, etc.

It is early morning and you are sailing toward your next destination. Winds are calm, and you are moving very slowly at one knot per hour. As you are sailing, one of the Scouts, age 15, tells you he got a cut on his leg while snorkeling near some coral two days ago. He thought it was just a minor cut but now thinks it is getting worse. You and another leader assess the wound on the lower calf of the Scout's left leg.

SCENARIO DETAIL

The weather is sunny with temperatures in the 90s and the possibility of thunderstorms in the late afternoon or early evening. The winds remain calm, and the boat is fairly stationary in the water. You are four hours away from the closest port and one day away from Sea Base. The captain and two adult leaders have been trained in WFA. The troop has a copy of each participant's Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR). Several cell phones are on board, but there is no cell service. The boat has a satellite phone.

STUDENT RESPONSE**1. Scene safety:**

Ensure that the scene safety assessment is completed. For this scenario, make sure that personal protective equipment is used (nonlatex disposable medical gloves, and goggles if needed).

2. Primary assessment:

A&Ox4, no immediately life-threatening distress

a. Physical exam: There is only a need to examine the wound area. *Follow BSA Youth Protection guidelines.*

Left lower calf: The wound, located 8 inches above the left inner ankle, is 1½-inches long, ¼-inch wide, and 1/8-inch deep with irregular edges. The wound is open and oozing some thick, yellow drainage (purulent discharge) along with some clear (serous) fluid. There is no blood noted. A ¼-inch area encircling the wound is swollen and reddened. There is also a deep red streak running from ½ inch above the wound up to the mid-thigh.

b. Vital signs: heart rate 78, respirations 16 (unlabored), skin color normal except as noted above, skin temperature warm near the wound but otherwise appears normal. No changes are noted in vital signs after the primary assessment.

c. SAMPLE

S – As above

A – Penicillin

M – Concerta for ADHD, Claritin for seasonal allergies

P – ADHD, seasonal allergies

L – Breakfast at 7 a.m. (one hour ago); voided clear, pale urine 30 minutes ago

E – The Scout was snorkeling two days ago in sea water and brushed up against coral, which caused the abrasion.

The wound has become worse and, today, the Scout noticed the drainage.



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POST-SCENARIO DEBRIEF

- Did the responders put on gloves before assessing the Scout? Were BSA Youth Protection guidelines followed?
- What signs and symptoms did you find?
A small open wound with purulent drainage. The area around the wound was reddened and swollen. A red streak was noted, starting ½ inch above the wound and traveling up the leg toward the groin.
- What is the individual's problem?
An untreated open wound that is now infected with the potential to become severe.
- How would you provide care?
Clean and bandage the wound. This wound is becoming worse and may have started to spread into the bloodstream. The Scout needs to receive advanced medical care quickly. Items needed include basic first-aid supplies.
- What would happen if the wound is left untreated?
It could lead to a blood infection.
- Does this situation require an evacuation?
Yes. The Scout needs advanced medical care beyond WFA skills. Care for the wound may require culturing (running a test on) the drainage and administering antibiotics. Because the winds are calm, you will reach help faster if you drop the sails and motor in to the nearest port with advanced medical care available. You could also contact Sea Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, or governmental officials—depending upon the region you are currently in.
- How could this scenario have been avoided?
Proper initial reporting and care of the wound might have prevented it from getting worse.
- Did the crew prepare well for the event? What first aid/WFA training did they have?
- What would the troop have done if they didn't have a copy of the victim's AHMR?
- Were the Scout's parents or guardian contacted?
- Discuss the advantages of having both cell phones and a satellite phone, especially when a group is going to a remote area.