

# Priority Topic: LACERATIONS

## Key Features:

For a single source on this topic: [Laceration Repair AAFP 2017](#)

1. When managing a laceration, **identify those that are more complicated** and may require special skills for repair (e.g., a second- versus third-degree perineal tear, lip or eyelid lacerations involving margins, arterial lacerations).

**What you should study:** ... and know the principles of repairing them

- ✓ [Laceration Repair AAFP 2017](#)
- ✓ [Perineal tears RACGP 2018](#)
- ✓ [Obstetrical Anal Sphincter Injuries SOGC 2015](#)
- ✓ [Reconstruction complexe du périnée MduQ 2017](#)

2. When managing a laceration, **look for complications** (e.g., flexor tendon lacerations, open fractures, bites to hands or face, neurovascular injury, foreign bodies) **requiring more than simple suturing**.

**What you should study:**

- ✓ [Laceration Repair AAFP 2017](#)

3. Given a deep or contaminated laceration, thoroughly clean with **copious irrigation** and **debride when appropriate**, before closing.

4. Identify wounds at [high risk of infection](#) (e.g., puncture wounds, some bites, some contaminated wounds), and **do not close** them.

***What you should study:***

- ✓ [Laceration Repair AAFP 2017](#)

5. When repairing lacerations [in children](#), ensure [appropriate analgesia](#) (e.g., topical anesthesia) [and/or sedation](#) (e.g., procedural sedation) to avoid physical restraints.

***What you should study:***

- ✓ [Peds Lac Repair AAP 2015 \(section on anesthesia\)](#)

6. When repairing a laceration, allow for and take adequate time to [use techniques that will achieve good cosmetic results](#) (e.g., layer closure, revision if necessary, use of regional rather than local anesthesia).

***What you should study:***

- ✓ [Laceration Repair AAFP 2017](#)

7. In treating a patient with a laceration:
- a) Ask about [immunization status for tetanus](#).
  - b) [Immunize the patient](#) appropriately.

For a good video on laceration repair, check out this NEJM video:

- ✓ [Laceration Video NEJM](#) - **the procedure starts at around 4 minutes**