



Cellulitis

PATIENT FACT SHEET

HEAL SPECIALIST URGENT CARE

What is cellulitis?

- Is a bacterial infection that lives on your skin. If the bacteria enters a section of skin that is broken down as a result of a cut, wound, scrape, splint etc it will spread to the surrounding tissue.
- Cellulitis can occur in most parts of the body and usually occurs in the legs.

How do I know if I have a Cellulitis ?

- Commonly you will develop pain in the area with increased redness and swelling over a day or two.
- The wound may weep and the skin feels hot to the touch.
- The infection may cause you to feel generally unwell, achy or develop a fever as it progresses.

What causes Cellulitis?

- anything that causes a break in the skin or skin to break down.
- This can include a bite from an insect or animal, abrasions, dry skin, foreign bodies (metal, organic material, glass) or after a surgical procedure.
- Some individuals are more prone to cellulitis, like the elderly, previous cellulitis infection, immunosuppressed, or diabetes.

Treatment

- Tests are sometimes used to help determine the severity of your infection if you are unwell, this could include blood tests and wound swabs.
- The wound can be traced with a skin marker to monitor if the infection is spreading or retracting.
- Depending on how severe your cellulitis you could be treated in a hospital (would require transfer), at home with nurses visiting you, or with a course of oral antibiotics
- Most people make full recovery typically with antibiotics, however, it won't improve immediately. It will take 24 - 48 hours for the antibiotics to start working.

If you have any questions, please ask the doctors or nurses before you leave.

Seeking Help: In a medical emergency go to your nearest emergency department or call 000

Disclaimer: This health information is for general education purposes only. Always consult with your doctor or other health professionals to make sure this information is right for you.