



SANA WOUND CARE

Wound Education Series

Signs and Symptoms of an Infected Wound

A significant complication associated with wounds is the potential for infection, leading to various complications such as delayed wound healing, the formation of chronic wounds, cellulitis, abscess development (a boil-like area), systemic infections (including sepsis), infection spread, necrotizing fasciitis, joint or bone infections, potential amputation(s), and hospitalizations resulting in heightened healthcare expenses.

Recognizing the signs of infection in a wound is crucial for prompt medical intervention, ultimately averting the complications above and facilitating optimal healing for the body. Sana Wound Care is here to help.

If you notice any of the following signs, seek immediate medical attention:

Increased Pain: If the pain at the wound site intensifies or persists beyond the initial healing stages, it may indicate infection.

Swelling and Redness: Unexplained swelling and redness surrounding the wound and extending beyond the initial injury site can signal infection.

Warm to the Touch: If the area around the wound feels warmer than the surrounding skin, it suggests an inflammatory response linked to infection.

Pus or Discharge: The presence of yellow or greenish discharge, particularly with a foul odor, is a clear sign of infection.

Increased Tenderness: If the wound becomes more sensitive or tender to the touch instead of improving, it may indicate infection.

Development of Abscess: The formation of a pocket of pus (abscess) within or around the wound signifies an infection.

Red Streaks: Red streaks extending from the wound toward the surrounding skin may indicate a spreading infection, known as lymphangitis.

Fever and Chills: Systemic symptoms like fever, chills, or an overall feeling of illness can indicate a more serious infection.

Changes in Skin Color: If the skin around the wound takes on a different color, such as darkening or a bluish tint, it may indicate infection.

Swollen Lymph Nodes: Swelling and tenderness in nearby lymph nodes may indicate an infection is spreading.

Persistent Itching: Persistent itching, particularly if it intensifies over time, may indicate an underlying infection.

It is important to note that not all wounds will exhibit these signs, and some infections may be asymptomatic initially. Individuals with diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, peripheral arterial disease, or a compromised immune system may have a higher risk of developing infections.

If you suspect your wound is infected or experience any of the above signs, it is advisable to promptly consult with a healthcare professional at Sana Wound Care. Timely medical intervention can prevent complications and promote optimal wound healing.