

Skin and Soft Tissue Infections

Image of a man lying down with his leg raised, resting on a pillow.

Text: 
What are skin and soft tissue infections?
•Bacterial infections of the skin or soft tissues are also known as cellulitis.
•Cellulitis causes redness, pain, and sometimes fevers. 
•Some people with cellulitis have abscesses, or pockets of fluid under the skin with bacteria inside. 
−Abscesses should be drained to help them heal. 

What should I do to feel better?
•If your healthcare provider gives you an antibiotic prescription, fill it and take it as directed.
•Keep the affected body part elevated or raised. For example, if the infection is in your leg, prop it up on a footstool or with several pillows. 
•Ask your healthcare provider what to do. They may tell you to take acetaminophen or ibuprofen, commonly called Tylenol® or Advil®.
•If you had an abscess drained, follow instructions from your healthcare provider about how to take care of the wound.
•If you have diabetes, make sure to keep your blood sugar under control.

When will I feel better?
•Skin infections take a few days to get better. Sometimes the redness and swelling spread before improving. Fevers may continue for a few days.
•You should see improvement by the third day of antibiotics. 

Contact your healthcare provider if:
•The redness, swelling, or fever is not getting better within 72 hours (3 days).
•You develop a new abscess.
•The infection spreads rapidly, you develop new blisters or high fevers, you have numbness or loss     of feeling in the infected area, or you generally feel ill.

This document is intended to provide health-related information so that you may be better informed. It is not a substitute for your healthcare provider's medical advice and should not be relied upon for treatment for specific medical conditions.


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Directions for Adding Your Logo to Your Document

If you chose to add a logo to this document, you can place it in the footer, below the article development content.

**Steps:**

1. Open the footer section (either double click in the footer section of the document or go to the “Insert” tab-> select the drop-down menu for “Footer”-> and click on “Edit Footer”).
2. Make sure your cursor is below the bottom line (or wherever you want your logo).
3. Go to the “Insert” tab.
4. Click on “Pictures” from the “Insert” tab.
5. A window will pop up so you can search your computer for the logo. Select your logo (.jpg or .png format) and click the insert button.
6. Your logo will appear in your footer. If you are happy with the placement, skip step 7.
7. \*\* If you want to move the logo image around, click on the logo-> go to the   
   “Format” tab -> click on the “Wrap Text” drop-down menu -> and select “In front of text.” This formatting will allow you to move the logo freely around the screen.
8. When you are satisfied with the placement of the logo, exit the footer section (either double click outside of the footer area or go to the “Design” tab-> and click the “Close header and footer” button).

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