Tetanus Treatment

Self-Care at Home

- Any wound that results in a break in the skin should be cleaned with soap and running water.
- All open wounds are at risk to get tetanus. Wounds from objects outdoors or crush injuries are at higher risk.
- Apply a clean and dry cloth to stop or minimize bleeding.
- Apply direct pressure to the site of bleeding to help minimize blood loss.

Medical Treatment

- Antibiotics and antitoxin to kill the bacteria and the toxin
- Wound cleansing to remove any obvious bacteria collections (abscesses) or foreign bodies
- Supportive measures
- Pain medicine as needed
- Sedatives such as diazepam (Valium) to control muscle spasms
- Ventilator support to help with breathing in the event of spasms of the vocal cords or the respiratory muscles
- IV rehydration because, as your muscles spasm constantly, increased metabolic demands are placed on your body