



UNIVERSITY HEALTH CLINIC HEALTH ADVISORY

DEALING WITH CATERPILLAR ITCH

Hairy Caterpillars are capable of inflicting a painful sting. They often have stinging fibers and hairs, as a form of protection against predators. The slightest brush can cause CONTACT DERMATITIS, PAIN AND ITCHING.

HOW TO TREAT A CATERPILLAR ITCH

STEP 1: Understand the types of reactions that are possible with a caterpillar sting; ITCHINESS, BLISTERS, WEALS, SMALL RED BUMPS AND BURNING SENSATION.

STEP 2: Calm the recipient of the sting. The venom tends to travel faster when a patient is moving

STEP 3: Remove the caterpillar if it is still on the body. Use forceps, teezers or scotch tape, not bare hands.

STEP 4: Wash the affected area with soap and water. Remove all contaminated clothing and wash in hot water

STEP 5: Apply an ice pack to the affected area after washing it.

STEP 6: Monitor the sting, watch for oozing, rash, swelling or change in color. If symptoms don't improve, seek medical attention.

#UHCares

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- ★ UHC WEST (GMH 114) loc no: 3039
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1



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