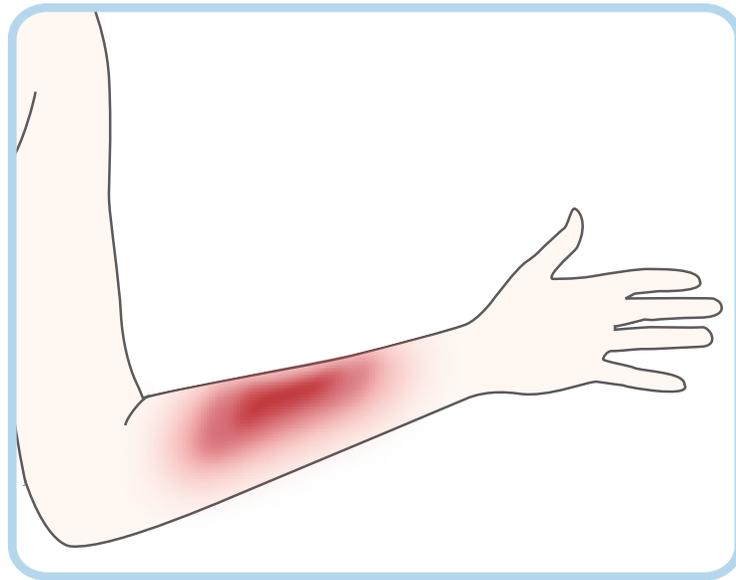


Cellulitis



 Office d'éducation des patients du CUSM
MUHC Patient Education Office



This material is also available on the
MUHC Health Education Collection (<http://infotheque.muhc.ca/>)
MUHC Patient Education Office (www.muhcpatienteducation.ca).

This material was developed by the McGill
University Health Centre Emergency Department.

What is wrong?

- ▶ A cellulitis is an infection of the skin and the tissue beneath it.
- ▶ It is caused by bacteria (germs) that enter the body through cuts or sores.
- ▶ The infected area is typically red and painful.

What should I do at home?

- ▶ If you are given a prescription for antibiotics, take them as directed. It is very important to finish all the pills even if you're feeling better.
- ▶ Keep the infected area clean and dry.
- ▶ You can take a shower or bath as usual.
- ▶ Avoid any ointments or creams on the area unless advised by your doctor.

When am I going to feel better?

With antibiotics the cellulitis should get better within a week or two.

Should I see another doctor?

A doctor (or nurse) should check to make sure that the cellulitis is healing well.

Be sure to go to your follow up appointment.

When should I come back to the Emergency Department?

You should return right away:

- ▶ If the area of redness is bigger, more swollen or more painful.
- ▶ If there is no improvement after 2 days.
- ▶ If the infection comes back in the same area or another area.
- ▶ If a boil or bump swells up. This may be an abscess (a collection of pus).
- ▶ If you have a fever above 38°C / 100.4°F that lasts for more than 24 hours.
- ▶ If you feel drowsy or very weak.

Notes