

# Survival Chance with Tetanus May Be Less Than 50 Per Cent

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Tetanus is not a disease that is common in occurrence but owing to the severity of the disorder and the high death rate among the cases treated, it is regarded with extreme apprehension both by the laity and the medical profession. As much as there is reliable and safe protection against this disease and tetanus-prone wounds are frequent in occurrence, immunization against the disorder is advisable.

Although most children are protected from tetanus (lockjaw) through immunizations given in schools, health department clinics, or private physician's offices, the same security exists for relatively few adults.

Earlier this month, one Los Angeles County woman died as the result of tetanus infection which followed a cut on the foot. It is true that not all persons who get tetanus die, but the chance of survival once disease starts is probably less than 50 per cent.

**In Puncture Wounds**  
Tetanus is most likely to occur when the tetanus organisms get into puncture wounds such as those made by nails, slivers, and deep thorn pricks. It may also be the sequence of apparently superficial abrasions and lacerations. In fact, any wound that seals itself off from the air permits the germs to multiply rapidly and produce the toxin that causes the

**Little Oscar, Wienerville's Giant, to Visit**

Little Oscar of stage, screen, and television fame will visit the Jim Dandy markets in Torrance and Compton on Sept. 6, it was announced here this week.

The little giant of the weiner world and his Wienermobile will be at the Torrance market, Torrance and Crenshaw, at 1:30 p.m. on that day while he will visit the Compton store, Compton Blvd. and Western Ave at 3 p.m.

Little Oscar will distribute wieners, whistles and autographed color photographs to the youngsters visiting his Wienermobile headquarters at the markets.

disorder. The tetanus organisms are found in many places. They are present in the soil nearly everywhere and are therefore deposited in the dust and dirt of the city streets. They may, therefore, be found in house dust and even on a person's skin.

**Two Measures**  
There are two ways in which the individual may be protected against the disease. In emergencies, tetanus anti-toxin is given which affords quick protection against the illness in the majority of cases but is short-lived and may give rise to severe reactions. The better method is the administration of tetanus toxoid which is highly effective, longer-lasting, and reactions to it, if any, are slight and cause little discomfort.

Tetanus antitoxin is given in case of injury when the person is not already protected by the toxoid. It usually produces immunity to the disease within a few minutes, although the protection lasts but a few weeks. Unfortunately, some persons are sensitive to the horse serum, which is the source of the antitoxin, and reaction to it may be severe. Immunity Obtainable

The safest protection against tetanus is immunization with tetanus toxoid. A series of two injections, given a month apart, provides active immunity and so eliminates the possibility of infection. However, the toxoid does not become effective until four to six weeks

after its administration. In case of accident, however, a booster dose of toxoid is required. A person who has had the toxoid injections should carry a card stating that this protection has been received. This may eliminate the necessity of the administration of tetanus antitoxin in an emergency although, in some cases, both may be needed.

Since the duration of immunity to tetanus is not precisely known, it is recommended that a boosted dose of toxoid be given within a year following the initial doses and then at intervals of four or five years thereafter.

Considering the innumerable hazards that may occur, which range from serious au-

tomobile accidents to a seemingly inconsequential prick, immunization against the infection with tetanus toxoid is earnestly advised by physicians.

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