

Removal of Prickly Pear Thorns

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Introduction

- A patient that fell into a prickly pear bush or has been pricked by its thorns, usually experience considerable discomfort.
- It is difficult to see the thorns or to distinguish it from the patient's hair.



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How to go about.....

- Paint the affected area with an **Iodine solution**, e.g. Betadine.
- Wait for about half an hour.
- The starch in the thorns will react with the Iodine and cause a purple discoloration.
- Using a good light source, magnifying glasses and a small forceps, the thorns can now be identified and removed.
- (Instruct the parent to remove them at home).

