

## Wound Botulism

A new case of WOUND BOTULISM has been reported in King County. Health officials believe the case may be related to injecting contaminated black tar heroin.

Injecting heroin that contains the botulism bacteria can cause serious infection and even death.

**Muscling and skin-popping pose the greatest risks.** But shooting IV is risky, too.

There is no way to know which heroin is contaminated and which is not.

Cooking the dope does not kill it.

### What do symptoms look & feel like?

- ❖ Weakness and drooping eyelids
- ❖ Blurred or double vision
- ❖ Extreme dry mouth and sore throat
- ❖ Trouble swallowing or talking
- ❖ Trouble breathing
- ❖ Increase shortness of breath

These symptoms typically occur from a day to two weeks or more after injecting. You may or may not notice an abscess.

If not treated, botulism can paralyze you, shut down your breathing, and kill you.

If wound botulism is caught *early*, it can be treated. It is very important to catch it early and begin treatment immediately.

If you have any of the symptoms,  
**Go to the nearest EMERGENCY ROOM...immediately!!!**  
Take this flyer with you so you will be seen quickly.