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# Fight for life after gnome 'stab'

A 58-year-old woman is gravely ill in hospital after a bizarre accident with a garden gnome.

The woman from Seaton Carew, who is not being named, impaled her leg on a wooden fishing-rod being held by the ornament.

Within days the wound swelled up and she became seriously ill. She had a tetanus injection in Hartlepool General Hospital but the virus took hold and she is now unconscious, fighting for her life.

Her husband said he wanted the accident publicising to warn people of the dangers of such accidents.

He said: "People don't realise how easy it is to catch tetanus. I would strongly advise anyone who gets injured to seek

medical help immediately."

Alexandra Campbell, an accident and emergency consultant at the town's General Hospital, today warned people to seek medical advice if they suffer any injury which could

lead to tetanus.

And a hospital spokesman urged anyone who suffers cuts while gardening to make sure they get an anti-tetanus jab. "It is particularly important where garden implements are concerned," said the spokesman.