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Dog bite victim 'doing all right'

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IRONWOOD -- Alexis Osterholm is doing "all right" following a severe dog bite, according to her mother, Donna Mylly, who added, "She's alive. She's a real trooper."

The Ironwood 7-year-old received 70 stitches in surgery that lasted until 2 a.m. Monday at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minn. Alexis returned to Ironwood after the surgery.

The need for plastic surgery will depend on how well she heals, Mylly said. Surgeons will use skin from under her chin if plastic surgery is necessary.

The child's wound extended from her upper left brow, across the nose, ending on the right cheek, according to a Gogebic County Sheriff's Department report. A large part of her cheek was bitten off.

Alexis is also the daughter of Ryan Osterholm of Ironwood. She was staying with her father, playing with children in his Tamarack Street neighborhood when the incident occurred.

Alexis was petting the dog Sunday when it suddenly bit her.

The dog is under a 10-day quarantine, necessitated by the fact it has not had a rabies vaccination. The dog will be euthanized after it finishes weaning its 3-week-old puppies, according to Gogebic County animal control officer George Beninghaus.

--Pamela Davenport

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