

BITES AND STINGS

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Information Needed:

- Type of animal or insect: time of exposure
- Symptoms:
 - Localized: pain, swelling, stinging sensation
 - Systemic: dizziness, sweating, weakness, itching, trouble breathing, muscle cramps

Objective Findings:

- Hives, rash
- Puncture marks at injury site
- Localized erythema and/or edema

Treatment:

- Remove etiologic agent if possible or relocate patient
- EMTs and paramedics may help the patient administer their own medications
- Ensure personal safety. If safe for the rescuer, bring in offending spider, bee, marine animal or other suspected creature for identification
- Grab and remove the stinger or injection/biting mechanism if visible as soon as possible
- Apply heat to stingray and sea urchin and other unidentified marine animal stings using warm water or compresses
- Consider IV
- Diphenhydramine 25-50 mg IM or IV (1 mg/kg). If there are signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis, see Allergic Reaction Protocol
- Consider pain management if indicated, see Adult Pain Assessment protocol
- Consider morphine sulfate 2 - 5 mg slow IVP for discomfort. May repeat morphine in 2-5 mg increments q 5 minutes or more up to 20 mg.
- If unable to establish an IV up to 5 mg of morphine sulfate may be administered IM. May repeat in up to 5 mg increments q 10 minutes to a max of 20 mg.
- Prior to the administration of morphine sulfate, and prior to each repeat dose, the patients pain and vital signs should be reassessed. The patient must have a SBP>90 mmHg, respirations>12, and awake to report pain.

Precautions and Comments:

- Allergy kits or Epipens[®] are frequently prescribed for persons with known systemic allergic reactions. Prehospital personnel may assist with the use of the patient's own medication.

- Ice applied directly to skin surfaces can cause serious tissue damage and should not be used.