Pediatric Stings/Venomous Bites

For snakes, scorpion, insects, and marine envenomations (e.g., stingrays, jellyfish). NOT for animal bites; use traumatic injury.

History
- Type of bite or sting
- Description or photo of creature for identification, if safe to do so
- Time, location, size of bite or sting
- Previous reaction to bite or sting
- Domestic vs. wild
- Tetanus and Rabies risk
- Immunocompromised patient

Signs and Symptoms
- Rash, skin break, or wound
- Pain, soft tissue swelling, or redness
- Blood oozing from the bite wound
- Evidence of infection
- Shortness of breath or wheezing
- Allergic reaction, hives, or itching
- Hypotension or shock

Differential
- Animal bite
- Human bite
- Snake bite (poisonous)
- Spider bite (poisonous)
- Insect sting/bite (bee, wasp, ant, or tick)
- Infection risk
- Rabies risk
- Tetanus risk

General wound care
- Consider, IV/O

Anaphylaxis
- Yes

Serious injury or Hypotension?
- No
- Yes

Identification of animal, if possible

Spider bite
- Bee/wasp sting

Snake bite
- Cardiac monitor
- Immobilize injury/limb
- Elevate wound location at the level of the heart
- Remove any constricting clothing/bands/jewelry
- If large barb is in thorax or abdomen, stabilize object
- DO NOT apply COLD PACKS
- Mark margin of swelling/redness and time
- Cardiac monitor
- Consider, IV

Animal bite
- Human bite
- Cardiac monitor
- For pain consider, Fentanyl
- Use Broselow Tape; refer to dosing guide
- Immobilize injury/limb
- Consider, IV

Marine envenomation
- Cardiac monitor
- Immobilize injury/limb
- For pain consider, Fentanyl
- Use Broselow Tape; refer to dosing guide
- Immerse in hot water 110 – 114°F (43 – 46°C) if available or apply hot pack
- Remove barb or spine if large barb is in thorax or abdomen, stabilize object

Notify receiving facility.
Contact Base Hospital for medical direction

California Poison Control Center
(800) 222-1222

Effective November 2018
Treatment Protocol PE04
Page 1 of 2
Effective April 2022
Poisonous snakes in our region are generally of the pit viper family: six rattlesnake species.
If no pain or swelling is present, envenomation is unlikely. About 25% of snake bites are dry bites.
Black Widow spider bites tend to be minimally painful initially, but over a few hours, muscular and severe abdominal pain may develop (black spider with a red hourglass on the belly).
Brown Recluse spider bites are minimally painful to painless. Little reaction is noted initially but tissue necrosis at the site of the bite develops over the next few days (brown spider with fiddle shape on back).
Evidence of infection includes: swelling, redness, drainage, fever, and red streaks proximal to wound.
Consider contacting the California Poison Control Center for identification (800) 222-1222.