

e-3 - ENVENOMATION

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Keep patient calm; determine degree of physiologic distress;
- Do not apply ice
- Accurate description of snake, spider, insect, etc.
- Assure an advanced life support response
- Attempt to initiate prompt transport when available

Poisonous Bites and Stings (Basic Therapy)

1. Ensure a patent airway (suction as necessary);
2. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts;
3. OXYGEN THERAPY – Begin oxygen at 6 liters/minute by nasal cannula or 10 liters/minute by mask.
4. Identify causative agent. If it can be safely handled, consider bringing to hospital, request assistance of animal control;
5. Monitor vital signs frequently;
6. Remove rings, bracelets, or other constricting items on the bitten extremity;
7. Assist advanced life support personnel with patient packaging and movement to ambulance;
8. If exhibiting signs of allergic reaction or shock, treat per PROTOCOL m-5, ANAPHYLAXIS.

Jelly Fish

1. Rinse site of sting with alcohol or salt water without rubbing or applying pressure.

Sting Ray

1. Rinse site of sting with alcohol or salt water without rubbing or applying pressure.

Bees/Wasps

1. Remove stinger by scraping it off skin. Do NOT squeeze stinger;
2. Apply cold packs;
3. See Protocol m-5, ANAPHYLAXIS

Snake Bites

1. Avoid excessive movement of the affected extremity; keeping it in neutral position relative to the heart;
2. Circle the affected area of the skin, noting the time on the skin as well;
3. Do NOT incise skin, apply tourniquets or apply ice;
4. Monitor distal pulses.

Spider Bites/Scorpion Stings

1. Apply cold pack to affected area;
2. Avoid excessive movement, keeping the affected extremity dependent.