

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Effective: 07/01/02

Protocol: P-007

BITES AND STINGS

SUBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- Type of animal or insect: time of exposure.
- History of previous exposures, allergic reactions, any known specific allergen.

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

LOCALIZED REACTION

- Puncture marks at injury site.
- Rash, hives.
- Localized erythema and/or edema.
- Decreased pain or touch sensation.

SYSTEMIC REACTION

ANY or ALL of the localized findings plus:

- Respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor;
- Diaphoresis (out of proportion to air temperature);
- Hypotension, tachycardia, tachypnea.

BLS Treatment	ALS Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Routine Medical Care.• Ensure personal safety.• Remove the stinger or injection/biting mechanism if visible.• Scrape out stinger, if present, from a honeybee sting.• Neutralize jellyfish stings with vinegar or baking soda paste if available at scene.• Apply heat to stingray and sea urchin and other unidentified marine animal stings.• Cooling measures on wound site for land animal/insect bite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diphenhydramine 25-50 mg IM or IVP.• See Allergic Reaction Protocol (P-005).

DOCUMENTATION

Description of rash

Diphenhydramine given if rash present

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Epinephrine autoinjectors are frequently prescribed for persons with known systemic allergic reactions. The kits contain Epinephrine and an antihistamine. Prehospital personnel may assist the patient with use of patient's own medication.

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- Time since envenomation is important, as anaphylaxis rarely occurs more than 60 minutes after inoculation. About 2/3 of patients who have experienced a generalized reaction will have a similar or more severe reaction upon re-innoculation. It is possible to have a severe reaction with a “first” inoculation.
- Ice applied directly to skin surfaces can cause serious tissue damage and should not be used.
- All human bites, dog or cat bites, and snake bites, should be further evaluated at a medical facility for proper cleansing and potential antibiotic therapy.