

**I. General Considerations**

- A. Most bites and envenomations will result in little more than a local reaction.
  - B. Patients must be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of more generalized reactions.
  - C. Patients should receive nothing by mouth.
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**II. History**

- A. What was the patient bitten/stung by (e.g., snake, cat, dog, ant, scorpion)?
    - 1. When did it occur?
    - 2. Was the attack provoked?
    - 3. What body parts were affected?
  - B. How is the patient feeling now?
    - 1. Is the patient experiencing trouble breathing or chest pain?
    - 2. Is there pain anywhere? (at the site, in the abdomen, etc.)
    - 3. Has the patient noted any rash or itchiness?
  - C. Obtain the past medical history.
    - 1. What medical problems does the patient have?
    - 2. What medications has the patient been, or is the patient supposed to be, taking (including over the counter medications)?
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**III. Physical Exam**

- A. Perform an initial assessment with particular attention to:
    - 1. Are there any signs of respiratory distress?
    - 2. Assess the adequacy of respirations.
    - 3. Assess the level of consciousness.
  - B. Perform a focused history and physical exam with attention to:
    - 1. Examine the skin for evidence of a bite or envenomation.
    - 2. Examine the skin for evidence of a rash or hives.
    - 3. Is there evidence of poor perfusion?
      - (a) Is there cyanosis?
      - (b) Is there a change in mental status?
    - 4. Is there swelling at the site or elsewhere?
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**IV. Treatment**

{If other conditions are present, follow the appropriate protocol(s).}  
{If patient is having an allergic or anaphylactic reaction, see **anaphylaxis protocol.**}

**Basic**

- A. Establish an airway, maintain as indicated, suction as needed.
- B. Control bleeding by direct pressure using a sterile dressing.
- C. Administer high concentration oxygen.
- D. Promptly remove a stinger if it is visible.
- E. Splint the affected part as indicated.
- F. Apply ice in a plastic bag or a cold pack to the dressed wound unless it is a snakebite.

**Intermediate/Paramedic**

- G. Secure IV access.

**Paramedic**

- H. *Consider use of nitrous oxide or narcotic pain management of medical direction's choice.*