3.01 BITES, STINGS AND ENVENOMATION

BLS – FAQ Link

Position of comfort, NPO, **Oxygen** as indicated

BITES & STINGS

- Remove the stinger or injection/bite mechanism if visible,
- Neutralize jellyfish stings with vinegar or baking soda paste if available,
- Apply heat to stingray and sea urchin or other unidentified marine animal stings,
- Apply cooling measures on wound site for land animals/insect bite,
- For associated allergic reactions, refer to **Protocol 2.02 Allergic Reaction**

IV/IO **Normal Saline** TKO

if pain, follow **Protocol 2.09 Pain Control**

COMMENTS:
LOCALIZED REACTION

- Puncture marks at the injury site
- Rash/hives
- Localized erythema/edema/decrease pain or touch sensation

SYSTEMIC REACTION
Any localized reaction with:

- Respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor or tachypnea
- Hypotension, tachycardia
- Diaphoresis (Out of proportion to air temperature)
- See **Protocol 2.02 Allergic Reaction** of signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction

ENVENOMATIONS

- Assess patient for local and/or system reactions and treat according to the appropriate assessment, see L flow diagram
- Do not attempt to capture live snake or animal
- Remove rings or other jewelry from affected extremity to prevent possible constriction due to edema
- If extremity bite, immobilize the affected extremity
- Minimize exertion of victim
- Rapid transport of all suspected envenomation for medical evaluation

IV/IO **Normal Saline** TKO

If SBP <90 systolic or signs of poor perfusion, **Normal Saline** fluid bolus
if pain, follow **Protocol 2.09 Pain Control**

COMMENTS:

- Do not us lymphatic constriction bands, tourniquets, electric shock, or alcohol
- If the patient is stable, remove the tourniquet and be aware that the patient may rapidly decompensate upon removal.
- Do not incise envenomation
- Do not use mouth suction or commercial extraction pumps (e.g. Sawyer Extraction pump)
- Do not apply ice
- All "pet"snakes must be positively identified if possible
- Zoos and legal exotic snake collectoirs are required to have a supply of antivenin on hand for each type of snake in their care. If available, bring antivenin/container with patient to hospital.
- Bites from coral snakes, elapids related to cobras, usually do not present with early symptoms. All bites are considered envenomated.

3.01 BITES, STINGS AND ENVENOMATION

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BITES AND STINGS

BLS Treatment

- Position of comfort.
- NPO
- **Oxygen** as indicated.
- Remove the stinger or injection/biting mechanism if visible.
- 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.
- Apply cooling measures on wound site for land animal/insect bite.
- For associated allergic reactions, refer to **Protocol 2.02 Allergic Reaction**.

ALS Treatment

- IV/IO with **Normal Saline** TKO.
- If pain, follow **Protocol 2.09 Pain Control**.

Comments

LOCALIZED REACTION

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

SYSTEMIC REACTION

Any localized reaction with:

- Respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor or tachypnea
- Hypotension, tachycardia
- Diaphoresis (out of proportion to air temperature)
- See **Protocol 2.02 Allergic Reaction** if signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction.

3.01 BITES, STINGS AND ENVENOMATION

ENVENOMATION

BLS Treatment

- Position of comfort.
- NPO.
- **Oxygen** as indicated.
- Assess patient for local and/or system reactions and treat according to the appropriate assessment, see L flow diagram
- Do not attempt to capture live snake/animal.
- Remove rings or other jewelry from affected extremity to prevent possible constriction due to edema.
- If extremity bite, immobilize the affected extremity.
- Minimize exertion of victim.
- Rapid transport of all suspected envenomation for medical evaluation.

ALS Treatment

- IV or IO of **Normal Saline** TKO.
- If SBP < 90 or signs of poor perfusion, **Normal Saline** fluid bolus.
- For pain, follow **Protocol 2.09 Pain Control**.

Comments

- Do not use lymphatic constriction bands, tourniquets, electric shock, or alcohol.
- If the patient is stable, remove the tourniquet and be aware that the patient may rapidly decompensate upon removal.
- Do not incise envenomation.
- Do not use mouth suction or commercial extraction pumps (e.g. Sawyer extraction pump).
- Do not apply Ice.
- All “pet” snakes must be positively identified, if possible.
- Zoos and legal exotic snake collectors are required to have a supply of antivenin on hand for each type of snake in their care. If available, bring antivenin/container with patient to hospital.
- Bites from coral snakes, elapids related to cobras, usually do not present with early symptoms. All bites are considered envenomated.