

5040 INSECT/ARACHNID STINGS AND BITES PROTOCOL



Initiate general care for bites and stings

Assess for localized vs. systemic signs and symptoms and depending on animal involved

Localized Symptoms:

- Pain, warmth and swelling

Systemic Symptoms:

- Hives, generalized erythema, swelling, angioedema
- Hypotension
- Altered mental status
- Other signs of shock

General Care

- For bees/wasps:
 - Remove stinger mechanism by scraping with a straight edge. Do not squeeze venom sac
- For spiders:
 - Bring in spider if captured or dead for identification

Ref. [Pain Management](#)

Diphenhydramine IV	Diphenhydramine PO
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- Ref. [Oxygen](#)
- Start IV

Specific Information Needed:

- Timing of bite/sting
- Identification of spider, bee, wasp, other insect, if possible
- History of prior allergic reactions to similar exposures
- Treatment prior to EMS eval: e.g. EpiPen, diphenhydramine, etc

Treat per [Allergy and Anaphylaxis](#) protocol

Specific Precautions:

- For all types of bites and stings, the goal of prehospital care is to prevent further envenomation and to treat allergic reactions
- Anaphylactoid reactions may occur upon first exposure to allergen, and do not require prior sensitization
- Anaphylactic reactions typically occur abruptly, and rarely > 60 minutes after exposure