

# Bites and Envenomations



## History

- Type of bite / sting
- Description / photo for identification
- Time, location, size of bite / sting
- Previous reaction to bite / sting
- Domestic vs. Wild
- Tetanus and Rabies risk
- Immunocompromised patient

## Signs and Symptoms

- Rash, skin break, wound
- Pain, soft tissue swelling, redness
- Blood oozing from the bite wound
- Evidence of infection
- Shortness of breath, wheezing
- Allergic reaction, hives, itching
- Hypotension or shock

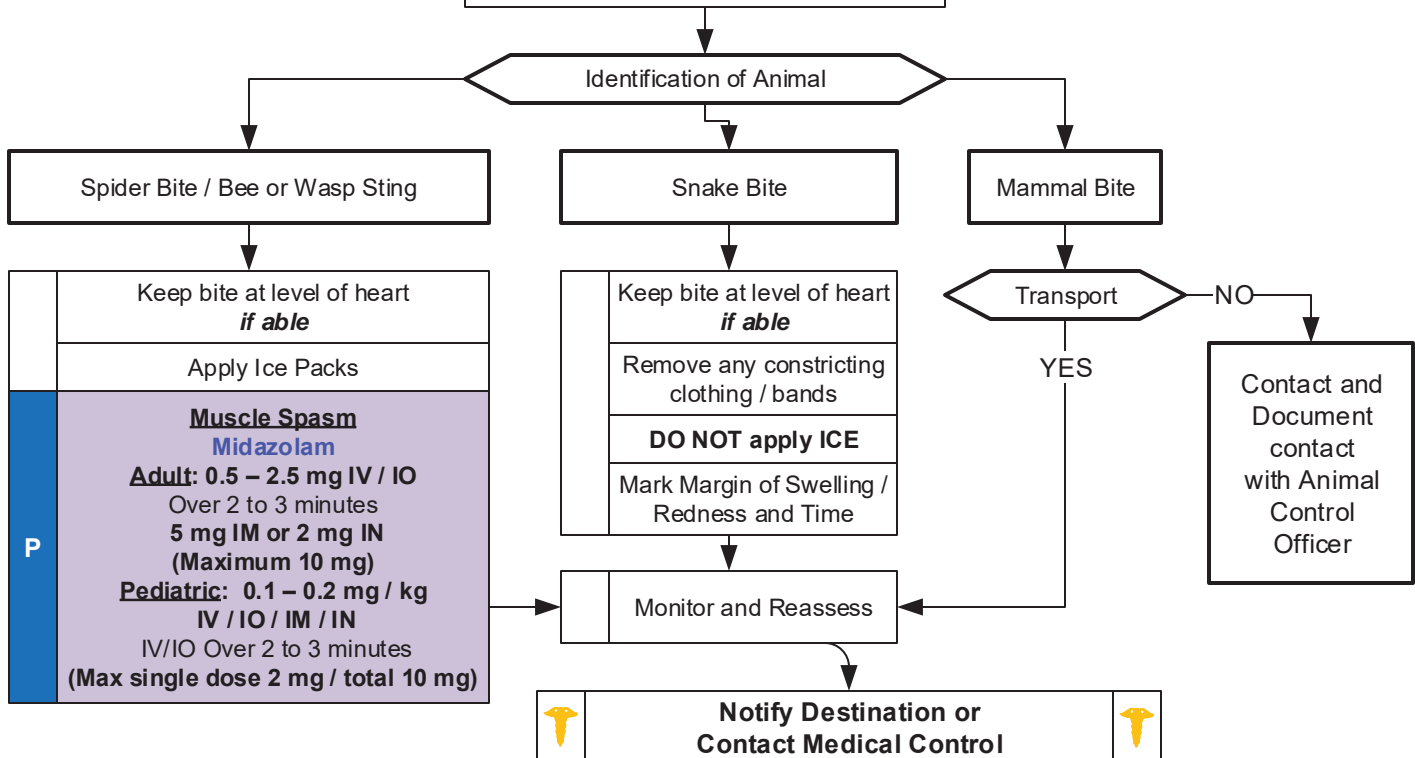
## Differential

- Animal bite
- Human bite
- Snake bite (poisonous)
- Spider bite (poisonous)
- Insect sting / bite (bee, wasp, ant, tick)
- Infection risk
- Rabies risk
- Tetanus risk

Call for help / additional resources  
Stage until scene safe

If Needed  
Carolinas Poison Control  
1-800-222-1222

	General Wound Care Procedure
	Immobilize Injury
	Remove any constricting clothing / bands / jewelry
<b>A</b>	IV / IO Procedure <i>if indicated</i>
	Age Appropriate Trauma Protocol(s) TB 4, 5, 6 <i>if indicated</i>
	Age Appropriate Allergic Reaction/ Anaphylaxis Protocol AM 1 / PM 1 <i>if indicated</i>
	Age Appropriate Hypotension / Shock Protocol AM 5 / PM 3 <i>if indicated</i>
	Pain Control Protocol UP 11 <i>if indicated</i>
	Extremity Trauma Protocol TB 4 <i>if indicated</i>



Toxin-Environmental Protocol Section

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Attempt to obtain photo of source in a safe manner.

## Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Extremities (Location of injury), and a complete Neck, Lung, Heart, Abdomen, Back, and Neuro exam if systemic effects are noted**
- **Immunocompromised patients are at an increased risk for infection: diabetes, chemotherapy, transplant patients.**
- **Consider contacting the North Carolina Poison Control Center for guidance (1-800-222-1222).**
- **Do not put responders in danger attempting to capture and animal or insect for identification purposes.**
- **Evidence of infection: swelling, redness, drainage, fever, red streaks proximal to wound.**
- **Human bites:**  
Human bites have higher infection rates than animal bites due to normal mouth bacteria.
- **Dog / Cat / Carnivore bites:**  
Carnivore bites are much more likely to become infected and all have risk of Rabies exposure.  
Cat bites may progress to infection rapidly due to a specific bacteria (*Pasteurella multocida*).
- **Snake bites:**  
Poisonous snakes in this area are generally of the pit viper family: rattlesnake and copperhead.  
Coral snake bites are rare: Very little pain but very toxic. "Red on yellow - kill a fellow, red on black - venom lack."  
Amount of envenomation is variable, generally worse with larger snakes and early in spring.
- **Spider bites:**  
Black Widow spider bites tend to be minimally painful, but over a few hours, muscular pain and severe abdominal pain may develop (spider is black with red hourglass on belly).  
Brown Recluse spider bites are minimally painful to painless. Little reaction is noted initially but tissue necrosis at the site of the bite develops over the next few days (brown spider with fiddle shape on back).