

BITES/STINGS

I. TREATMENT:

- A. All BLS providers shall follow the procedures outlined below in the treatment of poisonous stings and bites.
1. Assure safety of all personnel.
 2. Perform primary patient survey.
 3. Ensure adequate airway using oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway, if necessary.
 4. Administer oxygen at least 15 liters/minute by non-rebreather mask. Ventilate the patient if necessary with a bag-valve-mask device or demand valve. Perform CPR as indicated.
 5. Perform secondary patient survey taking note of any sting marks, welts, hives, or associated injuries. Assess for localized versus systemic reaction to the causative agent.
 6. Provide specific treatments for type of sting/bite or injury by:
 - scraping away the stinger - do not attempt to pull it out
 - applying an ice pack to the affected sting area(s) (excluding the eyes)
 - bandaging open wounds with dry dressings
 - immobilizing the affected parts
 - monitoring for hypothermia secondary to wetting the patient during the rescue procedure
 - treat as needed
 7. Provide general treatment for the patient by:
 - minimizing the patient activity
 - allowing for position of comfort
 - monitoring patient condition and vital signs at least every 10 minutes
 - maintaining extremity below the level of the heart
 - treating any other injuries according to local protocols
 8. Perform a secondary survey checking for:
 - possible causes for patient reaction
 - medical alert bracelets, necklaces, cards
 - signs and symptoms of acute allergic reaction (hives, itching, rash, generalized swelling, dyspnea)
 - signs and symptoms of secondary medical problems associated with the attack (myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular accident, etc.)
 - prophylactic allergy medication in patient's possession
 9. If patient has prescribed allergy medication, assist him/her in administering the agent.