

BITES AND ENVENOMATIONS

History: ○ Type of bite / sting ○ Description / photo with patient 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
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If signs / symptoms found go to appropriate protocol:

ALLERGIC REACTION
SHOCK MEDICAL
EXTREMITY TRAUMA

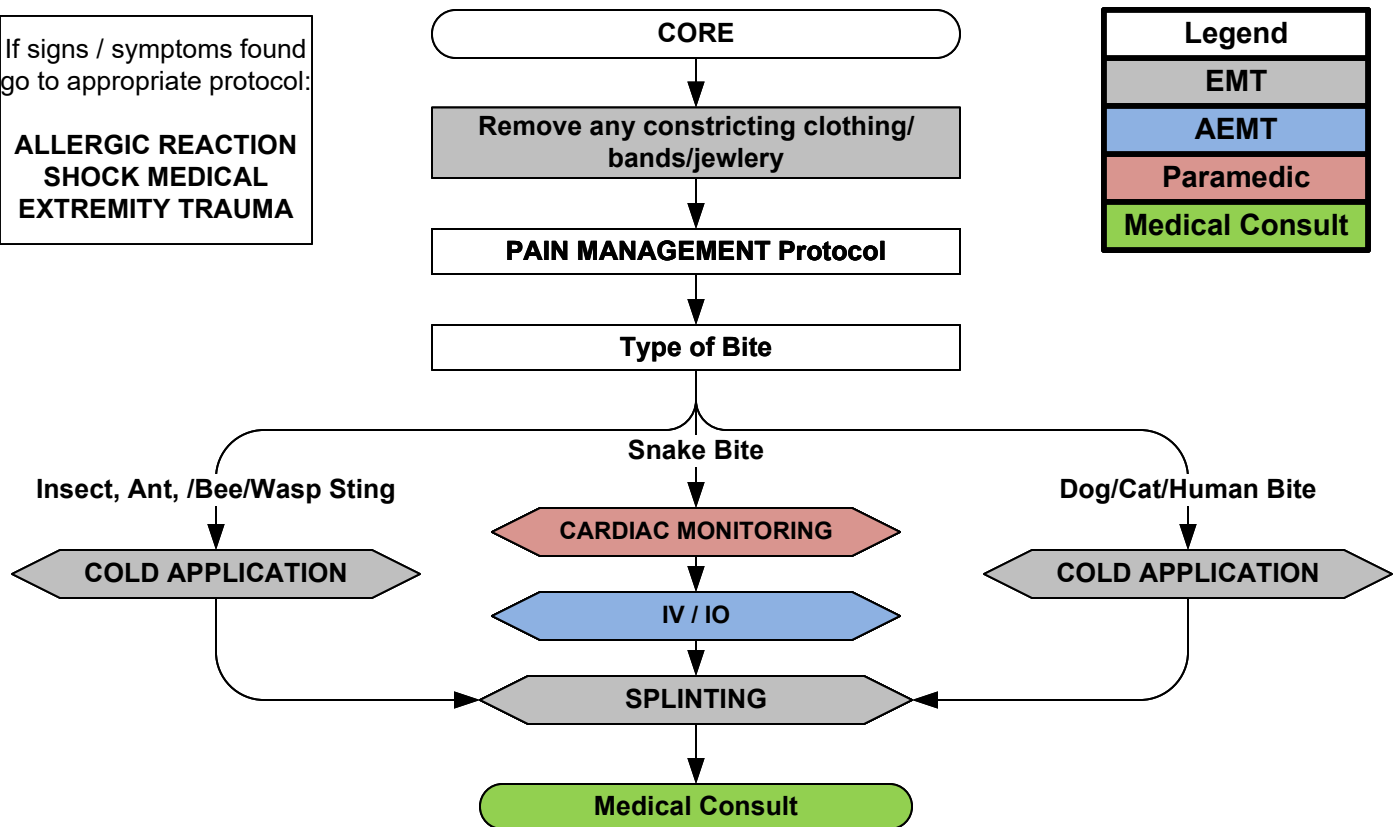
Legend

EMT

AEMT

Paramedic

Medical Consult



Pearls:

- Venomous snakes in the area are generally of the pit viper family: rattlesnake, copperhead, and water moccasin.
- Coral snakes are rare: Very little pain but very toxic. "Red on yellow—kill a fellow, red on black—venom lack".
- In cases of venomous snake bite, transport to a facility that has antivenom if possible.
- Black Widow spider bites have minimal pain initially but may develop muscular pain and severe abdominal pain (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).
- Mark the margin of the swelling / redness and time.
- Consider contacting the Poison Control Center for guidance via speed dial # 5040.