San Joaquin County
Emergency Medical Services Agency

BLS Bites and Stings

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.197, 1797.197a, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 2, Sections 100062, 100063, 100064

INFORMATION NEEDED:

Type of animal or insect; time of exposure.
History of previous exposures, allergic reactions, any known specific allergen.
Wound site: puncture marks, teeth marks, stinger.
For snake bites, refer to EMS Policy No. 5553, BLS Snake Bites.

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

Local Reaction: rash, hives; localized redness and swelling; skin at wound area hot to touch; decreased pain or sense of touch.

Systemic Reaction: Any or all localized findings; respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor; diaphoresis; decreased blood pressure; tachycardia; rapid respirations.

TREATMENT:

1. Ensure personal safety.
2. Primary Survey – ensure ABC's.
3. Remove insect stinger using a scraping motion, do not squeeze venom sac
4. For mild reactions:
    a. Adults: Diphenhydramine 50mg PO
    ~~a.~~b. Pediatrics: > 2 years Diphenhydramine 1mg/kg PO, max dose of 50mg
~~4.~~5. For moderate to severe reactions or anaphylaxis:
    a. Adults: Diphenhydramine 50mg PO
    b. Pediatrics: > 2 years Diphenhydramine 1mg/kg PO, max dose of 50mg
    ~~a.~~c. Assist patient with taking their own prescribed Allergic Reaction medications such as bee sting kit (epinephrine, ~~diphenhydramine,~~ antihistamine) or beta-2 inhaler.
    ~~b.~~d. ~~Enhanced Skills EMT~~: Administer Epinephrine Auto-Injector in lateral thigh:
        i. Contraindications: Chest pain or history of prior myocardial infarction.
        ii. Dose:

Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator

DRAFT

1. Adult dose (greater than ~~66 lbs~~3o - kg and less than 66 years old) EpiPen Auto-Injector 0.3mg. Do not repeat dose.
2. Pediatric dose (less than ~~66 lbs~~30 kg, greater than 6 months of age) ~~Epipen~~EpiPen Jr. Auto-Injector 0.15mg. Do not repeat dose.

~~5.~~6. Monitor SpO2.

~~6.~~7. Administer oxygen for shortness of breath or signs of hypoxia: Oxygen 10-15 L/min via non-rebreathing mask. Patients with ineffective respirations: support ventilations with BVM and airway.

~~7.~~8. Cold packs may be applied for pain (avoid placing ice directly on skin).

~~8.~~9. Dress wounds with gauze as needed.

~~9.~~10. Secondary Survey and Routine Medical Care.

Considerations

1) Notify animal control and law enforcement of all animal bites.
2) If safe, package the insect or spider for transport and positive identification.
3) All bites (dog, cat, human, etc) need to be transported for further evaluation at a hospital for proper cleansing and potential antibiotic therapy.
4) The time since envenomation is important as anaphylaxis rarely occurs more than 60 minutes after envenomation.
~~4)~~5) If patient has received an EpiPen prior to arrival and is asymptomatic administer Diphenhydramine 50mg PO for adults or Diphenhydramine 1mg/kg PO, max dose of 50mg for pediatrics.

DRAFT

Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator