

## CHAPTER 16: BITES AND STINGS (RTE)

### I. SIGNS & SYMPTOMES OF COMMON BITES AND STINGS

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

### II. CARE FOR SPECIFIC BITES AND STINGS

#### A. Insects:

- 1) 1-2 million Americans severely allergic to bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets □ ANAPHYLAXIS
- 2) **Care:**
  - a.
  - b. Do not remove with tweezers –
  - c.
  - d.

#### B. Ticks:

- 1) Rocky Mountain spotted fever –
  - a. Transmitted by
  - b. Sign –
  - c. Early treatment –
  - d. Other names – black , mountain, spotted, tick, or pinta fever
- 2) Lyme disease or Lyme borreliosis (reported in 40+ states)
  - a. Transmitted by
  - b. Anytime of year, but greatest between
  - c. Prevention –
  - d. First Sign –
  - e. Other signs –
  - f. Advanced signs - arthritis, numbness, memory loss, vision & hearing problems, high fever, & stiff neck
  - g. Care -

#### C. Spiders & Scorpions:

- 1) 2 spiders can cause death – **black widow & brown recluse** (prefer dark/secluded places, bites usually on hand or arm)
- 2) **Black Widow:**
  - a. Appearance –

- b. Bite –
- c. Signs & Symptoms –
- d. Treatment –

3) **Brown Recluse:**

- a. Appearance –
- b. Bite –
- c. Signs & Symptoms –
- d. Treatment –

4) **Scorpions:**

- a. Bites –
- b. Signs & Symptoms –
- c. Treatment –

D. Snakes:

- 1) 8,000 people in U.S. bit/year and fewer than 12 die
- 2) Rattlesnakes account for most snakebites & nearly all deaths
- 3) Most deaths occur because:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
- 4) Guidelines for Initial Snakebite Care:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
- 5) DO NOT –

E. Marine Life:

- 1) Can inflict painful injuries that can make you sick

- 2) Side effects =
- 3) Remove victim ASAP
- 4) Call EMS if
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
- 5) **Jellyfish, sea anemone, & man-of-war stings** - soak injured part in vinegar ASAP to offset toxin and reduce pain. A paste of baking soda or application of rubbing alcohol may help also help.  
**Do not apply fresh water or ammonia or rub the area.**
- 6) **Sting ray, sea urchin, or spiny fish stings** – flush wound w/ tap or ocean water. Then immobilize the injured part and soak in hot water (30 min.) or until pain subsides. Bandage, watch for signs of infection and check with medical personnel.

F. Domestic and Wild Animals:

- 1) Most serious disease = **rabies**
- 2) Transmitted by saliva of infected mammals (such as skunks, raccoons, cats, dogs, cows, bats, and foxes)
- 3) Rabid animals –
- 4) Fatal if not treated
- 5) Treatment –
- 6) **Tetanus** (“lockjaw”) – potentially fatal infection (affects CNS) from a toxin transmitted by animal or human bite
- 7) Signs & Symptoms of Tetanus:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
- 8) Care:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.

G. Humans:

- 1) Human bites account for up to 23% of all bites cared for by drs.
- 2) Children usually the inflictors and recipients

- 3) Human saliva –
- 4) Care –

### **III. PREVENTING BITES AND STINGS**

#### **A. General Guidelines:**

- 1) Apply repellent according to instructions (to self & pets).
- 2) Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and sturdy boots.
- 3) Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and shirt into pants.
- 4) Wear light-colored clothes so insects, ticks, & spiders easier to see.
- 5) Use a rubber band or tape where pants and socks meet.
- 6) Inspect yourself carefully.
- 7) Shower immediately.
- 8) Look for and avoid nests of wasps, bees, hornets, & yellow jackets.
- 9) Stay in middle of trails.
- 10) Avoid walking in areas populated by snakes (or make noise).
- 11) If encounter snake, turn around and walk away on same path.