

<p><i>Mechanism:</i> Foreign protein in insects' saliva introduced when skin is penetrated for a blood meal</p> <p><i>Distribution:</i> Almost everywhere — fleas, mosquitoes, ants Suburbs and rural areas — bees Urban areas — hornets, wasps, yellow jackets</p>	<p>Hypersensitivity reaction Papular urticaria Firm papules; may be capped by vesicles or excoriated Little or no reaction in non-sensitized person</p>	<p><i>Treatment:</i> Use antipruritic agents and baths. Administer antihistamines. Prevent secondary infection.</p> <p><i>Prevention:</i> Avoid contact. Remove focus, such as treating furniture, mattresses, carpets, and pets, where insects may live. Apply insect repellent when exposure is anticipated.</p>
<b>Chiggers: Harvest Mites</b>		
<p><i>Mechanism:</i> Attach with claws and secrete a digestive substance that liquefies the host's epidermis</p>	<p>Erythematous papules Intense itching Favor warm areas of body, especially intertriginous areas and areas covered with clothing</p>	<p><i>Treatment:</i> May require systemic steroids for extensive bites.</p> <p><i>Prevention:</i> Avoid contact, especially in areas of tall grass and underbrush. Apply insect repellent when exposure is anticipated. Spray insecticides such as diazinon in yards.</p>
<b>Hymenopterans: Bees, Wasps, Hornets, Yellow Jackets, Fire Ants</b>		
<p><i>Mechanism:</i> Injection of venom through stinging apparatus Venom contains histamine; allergenic proteins; and often a spreading factor, hyaluronidase Severe reactions caused by hypersensitivity or multiple stings</p>	<p><i>Local reaction:</i> Small red area, wheal, itching, and heat <i>Systemic reactions:</i> May be mild to severe, including generalized edema, pain, nausea and vomiting, confusion, respiratory impairment, and shock</p>	<p><i>Treatment:</i> Carefully scrape off stinger or pull out stinger as quickly as possible. Cleanse with soap and water. Apply cool compresses. Apply common household product (e.g., lemon juice, paste made with aspirin or baking soda). Administer antihistamines. <i>Severe reactions:</i> Administer epinephrine, corticosteroids; treat for shock.</p> <p><i>Prevention:</i> Teach child to wear shoes; to avoid wearing bright clothing, flowery prints, shiny jewelry, or perfumed grooming products (cologne, scented hairspray), which might attract the insect; and to avoid places where the insect may be contacted. Hypersensitive children should wear medical identification to indicate allergy and therapy needed; family should keep emergency medication and be taught its administration.</p>
<b>Black Widow Spider</b>		
<p><i>Mechanism:</i> Venom injected through a clawlike appendage; has neurotoxic action <i>Characteristics:</i> Shiny black spider, with a body about 1.25 cm (0.5 inch) long and a</p>	<p>Mild sting at time of bite Area becomes swollen, painful, and erythematous Dizziness, weakness, and abdominal pain Possible delirium, paralysis, seizures, and</p>	<p><i>Treatment:</i> Cleanse wound with antiseptic. Apply cool compresses. Administer antivenin. Administer muscle relaxant, such as calcium gluconate; analgesics or sedatives; hydrocortisone or diazepam intravenously.</p>