



Notes/Educational Pearls

Key Considerations

Vinegar has potential to increase pain associated with jellyfish sting as it can increase nematocyst discharge in certain species. Clinicians must be familiar with endemic species and how to best address exposure

Pertinent Assessment Findings

1. Assess for signs and symptoms of local and systematic impact of the suspected toxin
2. Patient may still have an imbedded stinger, tooth, nematocysts, or barb which may continue to deliver toxin if left imbedded

Quality Improvement

Associated NEMSIS Protocol(s) (eProtocol.01) (for additional information, go to www.nemsis.org)

- 9914079—Injury - Bites and Envenomations-Land
- 9914081—Injury - Bites and Envenomations-Marine

Key Documentation Elements

- It is helpful to accurately describe the suspect bite or sting source without risking patient or EMS clinician
- Only transport source animal or insect if can be done safely in a hard-sided container
- Repeat evaluation and documentation of signs and symptoms as patient clinical conditions may deteriorate rapidly
- Time of symptoms onset and time of initiation of exposure-specific treatments
- Therapy and response to therapy

Performance Measures

- Offending organism was managed appropriately without secondary exposure
- Appropriate and timely definitive treatment was provided
- Appropriate pain management

References

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4. Lavonas EJ, Ruha AM, Banner W, et al. Unified treatment algorithm for the management of crotaline snakebite in the United States: results of evidence-informed consensus workshop. *BMC Emerg Med.* 2011; 11:2
5. Prestwich H, Jenner R. Best evidence topic report. Treatment of jellyfish stings in UK coastal waters: vinegar or sodium bicarbonate? *Emerg Med J.* 2007;24 (9):6 64