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Spider Bites

Though many people are afraid of spiders, they rarely bite people unless threatened. Most spider bites are harmless. Occasionally, spider bites can cause allergic reactions. And bites by the venomous black widow and brown recluse spiders can be very dangerous to people.

If you are bitten by a spider, you may see a reaction similar to that of a bee sting, including redness, pain and swelling at the site. To treat a spider bite:

- Wash the area well with soap and water
- Apply an ice pack or a wet compress to the area
- Take over-the-counter pain medicine, if needed
- Consider using antihistamines for severe swelling
- Seek medical treatment for small children and adults with severe symptoms

Start Here

- Spider Bites [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spider-bites/symptoms-causes/syc-20352371?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/spider-bites/symptoms-causes/syc-20352371?p=1>]
- Venomous Spiders at Work [<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/outdoor-workers/about/venomous-spiders.html>] (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)
- What to Do about Spider Bites (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/spider-bites-sheet.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Treatments and Therapies

- Spider Bites: First Aid [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-spider-bites/basics/ART-20056618?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/first-aid/first-aid-spider-bites/basics/art-20056618?p=1>]

Specifics

- Black Widow Spider [https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/black_widow_spider.pdf] (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) - [PDF](#)
- Brown Recluse Spider [https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/brown_recluse_spider.pdf] (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) - [PDF](#)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Spiders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Spiders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Brown Spider Venom Phospholipases D: From Potent Molecules Involved in Pathogenesis... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39998087]
- Article: Clinico-epidemiology of tarantula (*Poecilotheria* spp.) bites in Sri Lanka. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39964253]
- Article: Black Widow Spider Exposures: A Retrospective Review of the National Poison... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39670790]
- Spider Bites -- see more articles [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Spider+Bites%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [https://www.cdc.gov/] Also in Spanish [https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/]

Children

- Hey! A Black Widow Spider Bit Me! [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/black-widow.html] (Nemours Foundation) Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/black-widow.html]
- Hey! A Brown Recluse Spider Bit Me! [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/brown-recluse.html] (Nemours Foundation) Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/brown-recluse.html]
- Hey! A Chigger Bit Me! [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/chigger.html] (Nemours Foundation) Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/chigger.html]

Patient Handouts

- Black widow spider [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002858.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia) Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002858.htm]
- Brown recluse spider [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002859.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia) Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002859.htm]
- Funnel-web spider bite [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002844.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia) Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002844.htm]
- Tarantula spider bite [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002855.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia) Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002855.htm]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Black widow spider [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002858.htm]

Brown recluse spider [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002859.htm>]

Funnel-web spider bite [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002844.htm>]

Tarantula spider bite [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002855.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Animal Bites [<https://medlineplus.gov/animalbites.html>]

Insect Bites and Stings [<https://medlineplus.gov/insectbitesandstings.html>]

Tick Bites [<https://medlineplus.gov/tickbites.html>]

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