

Pediatric Stings/Venomous Bites

For snakes, scorpion, insects, and marine envenomations (e.g., stingrays, jelly fish). NOT for animal bites; use traumatic injury

History

- Type of bite or sting
- Description or photo of creature for identification, if safe to do so
- Time, location, size of bite or sting
- Previous reaction to bite or sting
- Domestic vs. wild
- Tetanus and Rabies risk
- Immunocompromised patient

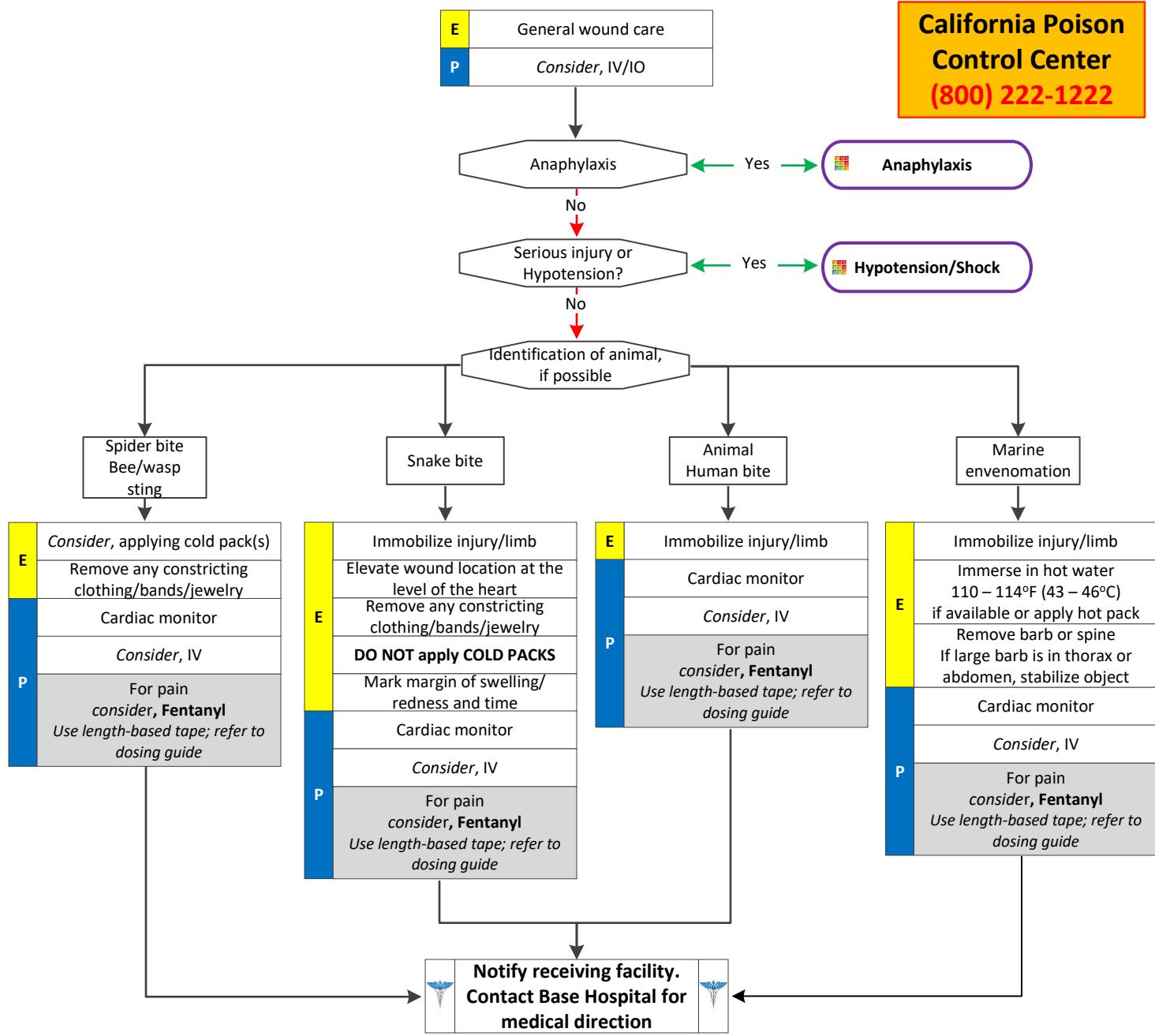
Signs and Symptoms

- Rash, skin break, or wound
- Pain, soft tissue swelling, or redness
- Blood oozing from the bite wound
- Evidence of infection
- Shortness of breath or wheezing
- Allergic reaction, hives, or itching
- Hypotension or shock

Differential

- Animal bite
- Human bite
- Snake bite (poisonous)
- Spider bite (poisonous)
- Insect sting/bite (bee, wasp, ant, or tick)
- Infection risk
- Rabies risk
- Tetanus risk

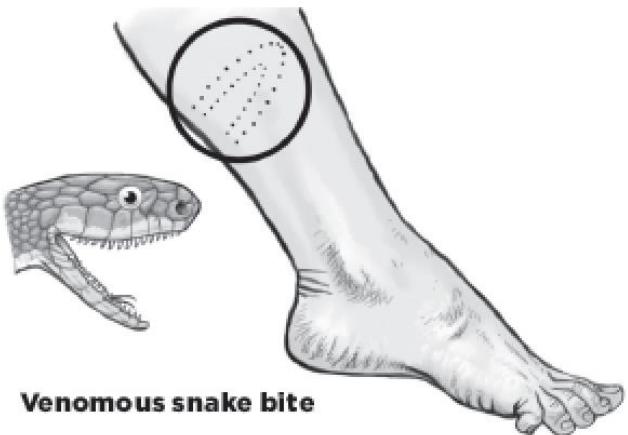
California Poison Control Center
(800) 222-1222



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Nonvenomous snake bite



Venomous snake bite



Jellyfish sting



Stingray sting



California King snake



Rattlesnake



Common Garter snake

Pearls

- Poisonous snakes in our region are generally of the pit viper family: six rattlesnake species.
- If no pain or swelling is present, envenomation is unlikely. About 25% of snake bites are dry bites.
- Black Widow spider bites tend to be minimally painful initially, but over a few hours, muscular and severe abdominal pain may develop (black spider with a red hourglass on the belly).
- Brown Recluse spider bites are minimally painful to painless. Little reaction is noted initially but tissue necrosis at the site of the bite develops over the next few days (brown spider with fiddle shape on back).
- Evidence of infection includes: swelling, redness, drainage, fever, and red streaks proximal to wound.
- Consider contacting the California Poison Control Center for identification (800) 222-1222.



**SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

Treatment Protocol PE04

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Effective April 2025