





Bites and Envenomation – Marine

Injury

CRITERIA

Known or suspected bites/stings by venomous or non-venomous marine animal based on physical findings. All bite/sting patients should be transported to the hospital.


PROTOCOL

EMR	Follow <i>General – Universal Patient Care/Initial Patient Contact protocol</i> .	EMR
EMR	Remove all rings, bracelets, or constricting items on the injured extremity. Mark inflammation boundaries and time, if known.	EMR
	If allergic reaction with urticaria, itching, stomach cramps, or anaphylaxis with respiratory distress or hypotension, go to <i>Medical – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol</i> .	
<u>Marine Envenomation</u>		
EMT	Monitor closely for signs of hypotension. If additional signs of allergic reaction are present, go to <i>Medical – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol</i> .	EMT
A	If hypotensive, administer up to 0.9% Normal Saline IV/IO 20 ml/kg fluid bolus and reassess.	A
I	If nausea/vomiting, administer Ondansetron (Zofran) 4mg IV/IM	I
I	For envenomation with severe signs and symptoms (seizures or muscle spasms) administer Lorazepam (Ativan) 2 mg IV/IM/IO and repeat dose in five minutes if activity continues up to a maximum total dose of 4 mg . or Midazolam (Versed) 1.0 mg IV/IM/IO followed by 1 mg every 2 minutes until seizure activity stops up to a maximum total dose of 5 mg . or Midazolam (Versed) 2 mg IN repeated as necessary up to a maximum total dose of 4 mg IN .	I
EMT	Jellyfish/Anemone/Man-O-War: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lift away and scrape tentacles with credit card type object. Do not brush or rub. Wash with clean seawater. DO NOT use fresh water or ice. The most effective method to deactivate the toxin and relieve pain is with 30 minutes of applied heat or hot water as hot as tolerable. Vinegar is effective on jellyfish stings but not on those of the Man-O-War. DO NOT delay transport to apply heat if transport is considered urgent. 	EMT



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EMT	If Stingray/Urchin/Starfish/Lionfish: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impaled barbs should be left in place for transport. If large barb in thorax or abdomen, stabilize object and refer to <i>Trauma</i> protocol.• Control any bleeding.• The most effective method to deactivate the toxin and relieve pain is with 30 minutes of applied heat or hot water as hot as tolerable.• DO NOT delay transport to apply heat if transport is considered urgent.	EMT
	Consider <i>General – Pain Control protocol</i> .	