# 3.01 BITES, STINGS AND ENVENOMATION

## BITES AND STINGS

### BLS Treatment

- Position of comfort.
- NPO.
- Oxygen as indicated.
- Remove the stinger or injection/biting mechanism if visible.
- Neutralize jellyfish stings with vinegar or baking soda paste if available at scene.
- Apply heat to stingray and sea urchin and other unidentified marine animal stings.
- Apply cooling measures on wound site for land animal/insect bite.
- May help patient administer their prescribed EpiPen autoinjector or equivalent product.

### ALS Treatment

- IV/IO with Normal Saline TKO.
- If pain, administer Morphine

## Comments

### LOCALIZED REACTION

- Puncture marks at injury site
- Rash, hives
- Localized erythema/edema/decreased pain or touch sensation

### SYSTEMIC REACTION

Any localized reaction with:

- Respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor or tachypnea
- Hypotension, tachycardia
- Diaphoresis (out of proportion to air temperature)
- See Protocol 2.02 Allergic Reaction if signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction.
### ENVENOMATION

#### BLS Treatment
- Position of comfort.
- NPO.
- Oxygen as indicated.
- Do not attempt to capture live snake/animal.
- Remove rings or other jewelry from affected extremity to prevent possible constriction due to edema.
- If extremity bite, immobilize the affected extremity.
- Minimize exertion of victim.
- Rapid transport of all suspected envenomation for medical evaluation.

#### ALS Treatment
- IV or IO of **Normal Saline** TKO.
- If SBP < 90 or signs of poor perfusion, **Normal Saline** fluid bolus.
- For pain, may administer: **Morphine Sulfate**

#### Comments
- Do not use lymphatic constriction bands, tourniquets, electric shock, or alcohol.
- Do not incise envenomations.
- Do not use mouth suction or commercial extraction pumps (e.g. Sawyer extraction pump).
- Do not apply Ice.
- All “pet” snakes must be positively identified, if possible.
- Zoos and legal exotic snake collectors are required to have a supply of antivenin on hand for each type of snake in their care. If available, bring antivenin/container with patient to hospital.
- Bites from coral snakes, elapids related to cobras, usually do not present with early symptoms. All bites are considered envenomated.