



Insect Bites and Stings

Insects such as bees, wasps, ticks and ants inject venom directly into the body by either biting or stinging the victim. Most insect bites and stings are relatively minor but can be painful and have serious effects if the casualty has an allergic reaction.

Caused by

- Bites or stings from an insect.

Signs & symptoms

- Severe allergic reaction/anaphylaxis.
- Pain at site (sometimes extreme).
- Swelling and redness.
- Muscle weakness (tick bite).
- Difficulty in breathing and swallowing.
- Itchy and painful blisters.

What to do

- 1 Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.
- 2 Bee/wasp sting: remove sting by scraping sideways with finger nail or sharp object without compressing the venom sac.
- 3 Tick bite: If any signs of allergic reaction or casualty has a known allergy - **DO NOT** remove the tick.
- 4 If any signs of allergic reaction or casualty has a known allergy - the tick must be killed where it is rather than removed, if you have the appropriate equipment to do so. This should be performed in a safe place with medical aid.
 - Freeze adult ticks with an ether containing spray
 - Do not squeeze the body of the tick
 - If there is a history of anaphylaxis to tick bite, carry an adrenaline auto-injector and use it as required
 - In remote locations where there is no known anaphylaxis to tick bite, use the most fine tipped forceps available to grasp the tick as close as possible to the skin; do not squeeze the body of the tick
 - For small ticks (larvae and nymphs) use an anti-parasite cream (available at pharmacies)
- 5 Apply a cold pack directly over the bite site to relieve pain.
- 6 Monitor casualty and seek medical aid if necessary.
- 7 If severe allergic reaction, call **Triple Zero (000)** for an ambulance. If the casualty is carrying their own adrenaline auto-injector it should be given immediately.

In a medical emergency call **Triple Zero (000)**

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