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Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

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# Bites and Stings

## Advice for Patients

# Bites and Stings

## Animal and Human Bites

If you have been bitten by an animal or a human it is very important to wash the wound thoroughly as soon as possible since all animal and human bites can easily become infected.

**Medical advice should be sought immediately.**

## Treatment

- All superficial animal bites and scratches will be cleaned thoroughly.
- A deep wound would not be stitched due to the risk of infection.
- Steri-strips may be applied to the wound to help keep the skin closed.
- A bite to the arm may require a high arm sling to help prevent further swelling.
- All animal and human bites require a full course of antibiotics.
- A booster dose of Antitetanus Toxoid may be required depending on the nature of the wound and/or immunity status.
- Human bites may also require a blood sample to be taken

## Important Points

Following any animal or human bite there is a high risk of infection. Therefore, if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Increased pain around the site.
- Increased redness or swelling at the site.
- Increased warmth around the site.
- Discharge from the wound (pus or bleeding) or an unpleasant smell from the wound.
- Raised body temperature, fever, lethargy or depression.

**Seek medical advice immediately.**

## Insect Bites and Stings

Most insect bites and stings cause only local reddening, itching and swelling.

Stings inside the mouth may cause so much swelling that they can interfere with breathing.

**Seek medical help urgently.**

It may be helpful to suck an ice cube.

Occasionally, follow a sting, breathing difficulties or signs of shock such as pallor in face, faintness, a shallow rapid pulse and sweating. Such a severe allergic reaction is known as "Anaphylactic Shock" and usually only occurs in people who have been stung before and have become hypersensitive.

**Seek medical help urgently.**

Following emergency treatment for a sting an Antihistamine tablet may be prescribed for you to prevent any further reaction.

**Any patients taking Antihistamine tablets are advised not to drive or operate machinery as this medication causes drowsiness.**

Should you require further advice or assistance please telephone **01932 722025** for Accident & Emergency at St. Peter's Hospital.

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## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email [pals@asph.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@asph.nhs.uk). If you still remain concerned please contact our Complaints Manager on 01932 722612 or email [complaints@asph.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints@asph.nhs.uk).

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Version: 2

Published: Mar 2008

Review: Mar 2010