


Bites and Stings


- Snakes
- Spiders
- Scorpions
- Ticks

Snake Bite

Prairie Rattlesnake
 Mojave Rattlesnake
 Western Diamondback Rattlesnake
 Timber Rattlesnake
 Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake



**Western
Diamondback**



**Mojave
Rattlesnake**

Incidence of Snake Bite in U.S.

- 2500 – 3800 venomous bites per year
- 5 deaths per year
- North Carolina highest

Snake Bite Fatalities in U.S. Since 2010

- 16 by Rattlesnakes
- 4 by Copperheads
- 1 by personal Cobra
- 1 by personal Black mamba
- SD, OK, CO, SC, KY, TX, PA, MO, GA, FL, AL, VA, WV, TN, CA

The Snake Bite Personality Type

- 80% have been drinking
- 70% on hand
- 50% by “tame” pet snakes



Snake Bite

- Most sensitive sensory organ - vibration
- Pit vipers – pits sense heat
- Adjust venom dosage according to heat put out by victim
- Humans put out WAAAY heat, confuse the snake
- May inject nothing or everything it's got

Snake Bite

- Two or one little puncture wound = pit viper
- Serrated bite marks = not venomous
- Begins to swell right away
- Draw line around swelling and watch
- If not big swelling by 4 hours, it's not gonna be



Snake Bite



Rattlesnake Bite

- Biggest complication: swelling
- May develop coagulation abnormalities



Snake Bite Treatment



Snake Bite Treatment

- No tourniquets
- No cutting into bite
- No sucking blood
- No ice

Snake Bite

- If significant swelling
 - Wound at heart level
 - IV in non-affected limb
 - Analgesics
 - Tetanus immunization
 - Antibiotics

Snake Bite

- Draw lines every 15 min or so
- Check distal pulses
- Fasciotomy in O.R.

Antivenom

- May or may not need antivenin
- Is now DNA recombinant, so no danger of allergy
- May need several doses
- Each dose takes 4 hours or so
- Little hospitals have first dose, then transfer

Spider Bites



Brown Recluse



- Not indigenous to this area
- Nasty necrotic area at site
- Pain meds
- Antibiotics
- Debridement after swelling gone

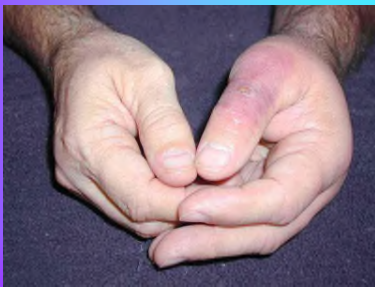
Brown Recluse



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



Day 10

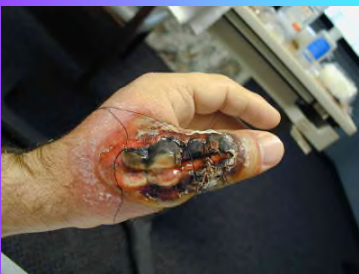
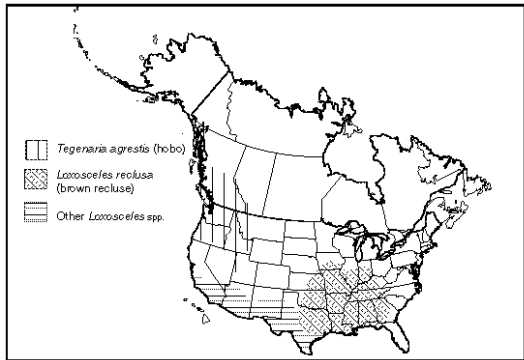


FIGURE 1. Distribution of venomous spiders causing necrotic ulceration — United States and Canada, 1996



Black Widows

- The bite hurts
- Baaad muscle cramps 2 – 6 hours after bite
- Most happen in the fall
- Roll over on them in bed



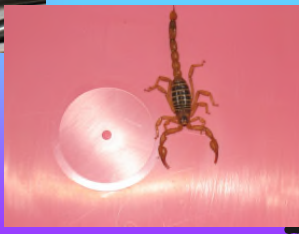
Black Widow Bite



- Ones around here are like bee stings
- There are lethal scorpions on the Northern shore of Lake Mead
- Locks sodium channels open, repeated firing of cells - seizures
- Resp arrest from saliva
- Benzos, intubation

Scorpion Stings

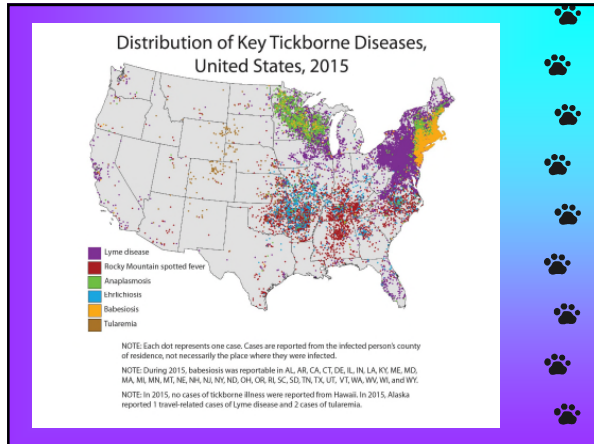




Ticks

- Lyme disease
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Babesiosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Tularemia
- Anaplasmosis









Tick Works

- Carry the virus in GI tract
- Bite, dig in
- Regurgitate GI contents into bite wound
- Takes at least 24 hours
- Likes snug spots on body

Removing a Tick



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