

Bug Bites

Mosquito



Prevention: bug spray, repellent, they also have repellent in the form of bracelets the child can wear, fans, and clip-ons. There are multiple natural options out there that may be helpful. Wear loose, light colored clothing. There are foggers available for the yard that can decrease the number of mosquitos for a short time.

Mosquito bites can get large and inflamed. This is normal. Things that can help include anti-itch cream such as hydrocortisone, ice, bandaids, and oral Benadryl or other antihistamine. If the child has scratched the skin open use Neosporin. Warning signs of infection include severe tenderness of the area, spreading and worsening redness, blistering, fever, refusal to use the affected limb.

Ant



Ant bites often swell more than mosquito bites and will have a small pustule that can drain a clear fluid. The swelling can look quite significant on a finger or an eyelid. It should be fairly soft and itchy but not hurt so much that the child usually allows you to touch it. May use ice, hydrocortisone cream and elevation will help. Look for the same warning signs of infection as mentioned above.

Multiple ant bites can cause significant reactions and swelling. If the child runs fever, is coughing, having trouble breathing, or refusing to use the affected limb it is best to have it looked at by a physician.

Asp caterpillar



These are caterpillars that cause a sting when touched. It is very painful, but can be managed at home. Use ice, motrin, Benadryl and hydrocortisone cream. The pain usually subsides greatly in the first 24 hours.

Stings – wasp and bee



Stings are usually more painful but often do not require a trip to the doctor. Manage the same as the other insect bites perhaps adding some motrin or Tylenol for the pain. Reasons to have the child seen by the doctor include severe swelling, coughing or trouble breathing, swelling on other parts of the body not directly related to the sting.

Spiders

Most regular spiders do not cause significant bite reactions. Usually they are not any more significant than an ant or mosquito and usually go unnoticed. However, there are a few to be on the lookout for. In our area these include brown recluse and black widow. It is helpful if you are able to catch and bring in the spider for identification.

Brown recluse bite will look like this within 24-48 hours. Occasionally, the child will show signs of fatigue, fever, vomiting, and muscle soreness.



Black widow spider bites appear like normal bites. However, child will have muscle pain, abdominal pain, may have vomiting, and redness all over. Many cases will resolve in a few days without treatment. But the child should be seen to monitor heart rate and blood pressure, and lab work should be done.

Skin infection



The typical parental concern with bug bites is infection. As the pictures shows, infection is angry red with spreading redness. This child will probably not walk on this leg or limps significantly. They often run fever. Any bite that is getting worse after 24 hours instead of improving you should watch closely. If child stops letting you touch it or it starts draining pus then it is likely infected.

Any time you are concerned about a skin wound or bite please don't hesitate to bring your child in. We are glad to help even if it is just to put your mind at ease and help you sleep better. We would much rather see the child and everything be fine then you stay at home and something be a problem. Please call us with any questions.

Dr. Bethany Rife