Animal Bites (Mammal)



Evidence Based Practice

Exclusion criteria:

- Patients < 2 months of age
- · Non-mammal bites
- Superficial bites that have not penetrated the skin

Considerations when determining need for imaging:

- Bone or joint involvement
- Head involvement
- Suspected fracture
- · Retained foreign body
- · Infected with concern for abscess

Indications for prophylactic antibiotics:

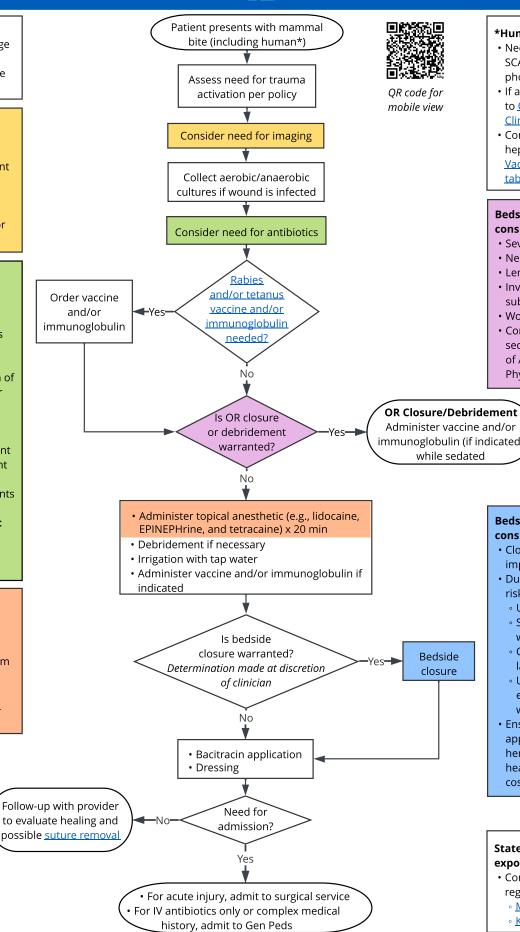
- Moderate or severe wounds, especially if edema or crush injury is present
- Puncture wounds, especially if penetration of bone, tendon sheath, or joint occurred
- Deep or sutured facial wounds
- Hand or foot involvement
- Genital area involvement
- · Immunocompromised, including asplenic patients
- All cat bites

Indications for antibiotic treatment:

 Signs of infection See Antibiotics table

Lidocaine dosing:

- CM sites utilize 1% lidocaine (10 mg/mL) formulations
- Recommended maximum dose = 4.5 mg/kg/dose (max 300 mg/dose)
- Link to <u>lidocaine dosage</u> calculator



*Human bite considerations

- · Need for involvement of SCAN, Social Work, forensic photos
- If abuse is suspected, refer to Child Physical Abuse Clinical Pathway
- Consider risk factors for hepatitis, HIV (see Vaccine/Immunoglobulin table)

Bedside vs. OR closure considerations

- Severity of injury
- Necessary level of sedation
- · Length of procedure
- · Involvement of multiple sub-specialists
- Wound complexity
- Consider safety of ED sedation / American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) **Physical Status Classification**

Administer vaccine and/or immunoglobulin (if indicated)

Bedside closure considerations:

- · Close facial wounds to improve cosmetic outcomes
- · Due to increased infection risk. avoid:
 - Use of medical glue
- Sutures for puncture wounds
- Closing extremity lacerations after 12 hours
- Use of deep sutures except for large, gaping wounds
- Ensure closure is loosely approximated to achieve hemostasis, improve time to healing and help with cosmetic outcomes

State Public Health Rabies exposure forms

 Complete appropriate regional forms as indicated

Last Updated: 1.9.2025

- Missouri
- Kansas

Contact: EvidenceBasedPractice @cmh.edu

Link to: synopsis and references