

Injected Poisons- Spiders

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Venomous Spiders:

- Black Widow (*Latrodectus Mactans*)
 - “Hourglass”
 - Neurotoxic: major venom component of sphingomyelinase D potentially resulting in vascular injury, dermatonecrosis, and hemolysis.
- Brown Recluse (*Loxosceles Reclusa*)
 - “Violin”, “Fiddleback”
 - Cytotoxic: the major venom component of α -Latrotoxin potentially resulting in massive presynaptic discharge of neurotransmitters, lymphatic and hematogenous spread, and neurotoxicity

Clinical Presentation:

- Black Widow
 - Tachycardia
 - Bradycardia
 - Leukocytosis
 - Hyperglycemia
 - Bronchoconstriction
 - Pain at site (and systemic)
 - Anxiety
 - Muscle Cramps
 - Psychosis
 - Hallucinations
 - Visual disturbances
 - Seizures
- Brown Recluse
 - Tissue necrosis
 - Tissue sloughing
 - Red blood cell hemolysis
 - Systemic release of serotonin

Treatment:

- Black Widow *Symptoms can appear immediately
 - Maintain airway!
 - Basic first-aid (ex: dress wound, ice pack prn)
 - Administer Latrodectus IV to high-risk patients (contraindicated if allergic to horse, horse serum)
- Brown Recluse *Symptoms can appear 3-5 days after envenomation/penetration
 - Assess for any immediate reactions, although not common
 - Educate! – When to return, symptoms/changes of concern, assessment skills, at home management

Teaching:

- Found outside under rocks, stone walls, crevices, woodpiles, outhouses, barns, stables, and rubbish piles- so take caution and avoid
- Wound Care
- Signs and symptoms of infection or further complications
- When to return to the ED