

Insect bites

in adults and children



Insect bites from bees, wasps, gnats, mosquitoes, horseflies, ticks and ants are not uncommon, especially in summer. The puncture can itch, hurt and turn red. In most cases, an insect bite is nothing to worry about and will go away on its own after a short time. However, bites can cause severe reactions in people with an insect venom allergy. Rapid medical help is needed here.

What can you do yourself in case of an insect bite, if you do not suffer from an insect venom allergy?

- Remove the remaining sting or tick with tweezers.
- Hold something cool (e.g. ice pack, cold compress) on the affected area for at least ten minutes.
- Do not scratch the puncture.
- If possible, elevate the stung body part to reduce the swelling.
- Special creams from the pharmacy help against itching and swelling.

When to seek medical advice?

Contact your family doctor when:

- the consequences of the insect bite do not get better or even worsen within a few days.
- an approx. 10 cm long or several small red swellings develop around the puncture.
- you have been stung near the eye, mouth or throat.
- the puncture becomes inflamed.
- you get flu-like symptoms (e.g. high fever, swollen glands).

When to seek medical advice immediately?

Get medical aid immediately if

- you are gasping or have breathing difficulties.
- your face, mouth or throat is swollen.
- you have trouble swallowing.
- you feel dizzy or you have fainted.

Your family doctor's office has just closed?

It is usually sufficient to call during the next day's consultation hours.

Are you unsure? Call us at ☎ 1450, the health advice call centre.

More information can be found at www.wobinichrichtig.at.



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