

Management

1. Washout the wound with 1L of normal saline
2. Consider arranging blood tests to check for markers of infection if the wound looks infected (e.g. if tracking or swollen) or if patient observations indicate infection is brewing
3. Provide analgesia
4. Consider antibiotics if indicated (e.g. looks to be infected)
5. Administer a tetanus vaccination if the patient is not up-to-date (consider booster otherwise)
6. X-ray to assess for fractures and presence of foreign bodies
7. Elevate the hand to reduce swelling and pain
8. Refer for an assessment by the plastics team (or hand surgeon) if the bite penetrated a joint, or severe damage to bones or nerves
- 9. Keep your patient fasted** if you feel surgery may be required



Human Bite (“fight-bite”)

Consider blood borne virus screen for hepatitis and HIV and consider antibiotics if wound appears to be infected.

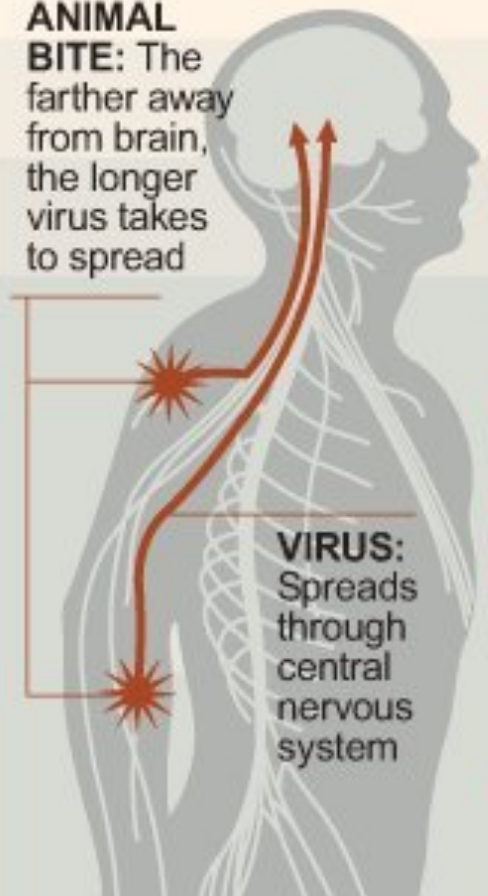
Animal Bite

Consider antibiotics, usually co-amoxiclav, (unless penicillin allergy). Check tetanus status and arrange tetanus immunoglobulins (if not up-to-date). Arrange rabies vaccination and treatment if indicated.

Rabies

How it spreads

ANIMAL BITE: The farther away from brain, the longer virus takes to spread



Common carriers of rabies

Infected animals: Show no fear for humans; act very agitated



Dog: Another common rabies source

Symptoms in humans

- Fever, depression
- Agitation
- Painful spasms followed by excessive saliva
- Death within a week without vaccine

Treatment: Hospitalization, immune globulin injections, anti-rabies vaccine

Foaming at mouth after drinking: Produced by spasms in throat

SOURCE: The World Book Medical Encyclopedia

KRT

REFERENCES & USEFUL LINKS

1. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10137>
2. <https://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/antimicrobial-prescribing-for-common-infections/antimicrobial-prescribing-for-common-infections-overview#content=view-node:nodes-skin-and-soft-tissue>
3. <https://cks.nice.org.uk/bites-human-and-animal>
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tetanus-advice-for-health-professionals>
5. <https://emin5.com/2014/08/17/rapid-neuro-hand-exam/>
6. <https://emin5.com/2014/02/09/dog-bites/>