

TICKS & WASP

TICKS:

Where they like to get you:

Groin, armpit, and back of the scalp just above the neck.

Concerns:

The tick may infect you with various spooky diseases, like Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Colorado Tick Fever, and Lyme Disease. I won't tell you about all of these, because you'd never go into the woods again.

Immediate care:

Grasp the tick's body with tweezers or needle-nose pliers. Pull gently back, twisting the tick from side to side, until it pops free. (Usually, you can't pull the tick out with your fingers. The little critter is tiny, wiggly, and slippery. And if you bring your fingernail and thumbnail together to get a better hold, you may amputate the head, leaving it attached to your skin.) Once the tick is out, wash the area with soap and water.

Ongoing care:

Check the bite site periodically for redness, swelling, or drainage. If you left the head or pinchers behind in the skin, it will act like a tiny splinter with festering and local infection.

Watch for:

During the three weeks after the tick bite, see the doctor if you develop:

- fever
- rash
- unexplained body aches
- severe headache



WASPS:

Where they like to get you:

Any where ...so run! Pay attention during the warm months for them waiting to get you around outside enclosures, hanging under signs, around old equipment, or in materials stored outdoors.

Concerns:

Wasps are able to give multiple stings as the sting is shaped like two miniature swords lying parallel within a sheath. When stinging the wasp stabs with one sword, anchors it within the flesh and then stabs in the other, repeating the process, going deeper each time. Once at the full depth the wasp then injects the venom.

Immediate care:

1st aid Sting relief pads

Cold pack to help limit swelling

Take an antihistamine such as diphenhydramine to reduce swelling and reaction at the sting site.

Ongoing care:

Keep an eye on the patient, if there are any symptoms of an allergic reaction seek medical help as soon as possible. (going from mild indications through to severe symptoms:)

1. Restricted breathing
2. Tightness in the throat, possible dry cough.
3. Fast heart rate, slight temperature and looking flushed
4. Unwell feeling
5. Breathing becoming dry, harsh and difficult.
6. Possible blotchy skin or a rash.
7. Feeling faint
8. Stomach cramps, vomiting or diarrhoea
9. Puffiness in the face, swelling of the lips and tongue
10. Breathing very shallow progressing to respiratory arrest
11. Cardiac arrest

These indicators of severe allergic reaction will occur within the first hour of the sting.

