

## **NORMAL AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS TO INSECT STINGS**

- I. Normal, non-allergic reactions at the time of the sting
  - a. Pain, sometimes sharp and piercing
  - b. Burning, or itching burn
  - c. Redness (erythema) around sting site
  - d. A white area (wheal) immediately surrounding the sting site
  - e. Swelling (edema)
  - f. Tenderness to touch
  
- II. Normal, non-allergic reactions hours or days after itching
  - a. Itching
  - b. Residual redness
  - c. A small brown or red damage spot at the puncture site
  - d. Swelling at the sting site
  
- III. Large Local reactions
  - a. Massive swelling (angioedema) around the sting site extending over an area of 10 cm or more and frequently increasing in size for 24 to 72 hours, sometimes lasting a week in duration.
  
- IV. Cutaneous allergic reactions
  - a. Urticaria (hives, nettle rash) anywhere on the skin
  - b. Angioedema (massive swelling) remote from the sting site
  - c. Generalized pruritis (itching) of the skin
  - d. Generalized erythema (redness) of the skin remote from the sting site
  
- V. Non life-threatening systemic allergic reactions
  - a. Allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis
  - b. Minor respiratory symptoms
  - c. Abdominal cramps
  - d. Severe gastrointestinal upset
  - e. Weakness
  - f. Fear or other subjective feelings
  
- VI. Life-threatening systemic allergic reactions
  - a. Shock
  - b. Unconsciousness
  - c. Hypotension or fainting
  - d. Respiratory distress
  - e. Laryngeal blockage (massive swelling in the throat)