



## Slow Loris Bite Protocol

A slow loris venomous bite can cause severe allergic reactions, anaphylaxis, necrosis, and systemic toxicity. Immediate medical attention is required. Loris bites should be treated like an allergic reaction and similar to allergic reactions, individual responses will vary. Keep in mind if a person sustains a bite for the first time their reaction is unknown and may be severe. Every bite should be treated as if it will cause anaphylaxis even if the person has been bitten before as repeated exposure may result in sensitisation, leading to an increased reaction.

### 1. Immediate First Aid

- Remove the loris carefully. If the loris is still biting, do not pull it off, as this may worsen tissue damage. A blow of air on the loris' face will usually cause it to release (exhale sharply on loris).
- Clean the wound immediately:
  - If in the field, rinse the wound with clean filtered water and wipe with antiseptic wipe/spray. In a facility
  - wash thoroughly with soap and water.
  - Avoid aggressive scrubbing to prevent further tissue trauma.
- Do not suck the wound or apply tourniquets.
- Apply a sterile dressing with mild pressure to control bleeding.
- Take two antihistamine tablets immediately (loratadine, cetirizine, fexofenadine), dosage is not so important, though we administer high dosage antihistamines (180 mg). **Do not wait for symptoms to appear before taking antihistamines.**
- A general painkiller (paracetamol, ibuprofen) is also recommended for pain management but not required.

### 2. Monitor for Immediate Symptoms

After administering antihistamines immediately return from field (if relevant) and monitor the patient for a **minimum of 2 hours**.

- Localised reactions: Redness, swelling, pain, and blistering.
- Systemic symptoms (seek urgent care if any occur):
  - Allergic reactions: Hives, itching, swelling of the face or throat.
  - Anaphylaxis: Difficulty breathing, dizziness, drop in blood pressure.
  - Necrosis/Infection: Blackened tissue, pus, worsening pain over hours/days.
  - Shock: Rapid heart rate, confusion, fainting.



### 3. Seek Emergency Medical Attention

- Tell medical staff that slow loris venom is involved (it contains allergens similar to cat dander, which can cause severe anaphylaxis).
- If anaphylaxis develops, administer an epinephrine (EpiPen) injection immediately and seek emergency help.
- Doctors may administer:
  - Antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine, loratadine)
  - Corticosteroids (to reduce inflammation)
  - Antibiotics (if infection is suspected)
  - Pain management (NSAIDs or stronger analgesics if needed)

Make sure to inform medical staff of medicines already administered, such as antihistamines and painkillers.

### 4. Long-Term Monitoring

- Watch for necrosis: Some bites result in tissue death requiring surgical removal.
- Check for secondary infections: Wild animals have oral bacteria that can cause severe infections.
- Follow up with a doctor if symptoms worsen or new issues develop.