Normal and Allergic Reactions to Bee Stings


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I. Normal, non-allergic reactions at the time of the sting
   Pain, sometimes sharp and piercing
   Burning, or itching burn
   Redness (erythema) around the sting site
   A white area (wheal) immediately surrounding the sting puncture mark
   Swelling (edema)
   Tenderness to touch

II. Normal, non-allergic reaction hours or days after the sting
    Itching
    Residual redness
    A small brown or red damage spot at the puncture site
    Swelling at the sting site

III. Large local reactions
    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 up to a week in duration

IV. Cutaneous allergic reactions
    Urticaria (hives, nettle rash) anywhere on the skin
    Angiodema (massive swelling) remote from the sting site
    Generalized pruritis (itching) of the skin
    Generalized erythema (redness) of the skin remote from the sting site

V. Non life-threatening systemic allergic reactions
    Allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis
    Minor respiratory symptoms
    Abdominal cramps
    Severe gastrointestinal upset
    Weakness
    Fear or other subjective feelings

VI. Life-threatening systemic allergic reactions
    Shock
    Unconsciousness
    Hypotension or fainting
    Respiratory distress (difficulty in breathing)
    Laryngeal blockage (massive swelling in the throat)