



Australian Venom  
Research Unit

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factsheet

## Vinegar and Tentacle Removal Technique

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#### What and Why is it Done?

This technique involves pouring vinegar over the sting sites and removing any remaining tentacles.

Use this technique for the following venomous stings –



#### How is it Done?

- 1** Pour plenty of vinegar over the wound (for at least 30 seconds).
- 2** Remove any tentacle material still stuck to the patient's skin.
- 3** Seek medical help as soon as possible.

There is not much point applying one of the First Aid techniques if the patient has stopped breathing or their heart is not beating. In such cases, Emergency Procedures (DR-ABC) must apply first, or at least at the same time, if there is someone else to assist. When the victim is breathing again, complete the recommended First Aid technique, and immediately ring 000 for medical assistance.

See specific instructions for the DR-ABC procedure

Bites and stings can be dangerous for those people with allergies, especially life-threatening general reactions (called anaphylaxis). Almost as many people die of venom allergy in Australia as from snakebite.

See specific instructions for the Allergic Reactions technique