



*AFP in Practice* questions are designed to get you started in a small group learning (SGL) activity in your practice or with colleagues. Requirements to earn 40 Category 1 CPD points for a SGL activity are: minimum of four and a maximum of 10 people, minimum of 8 hours of discussion in a year, and at least two GPs. Groups may include anyone else who has an interest (ie. practice nurses, community health workers, allied health professionals). A kit with all the instructions and forms you need is available at [www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice](http://www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice). You can also earn Category 2 points based on these questions at *AFP* practice challenge. Visit [www.gplearning.com.au](http://www.gplearning.com.au)

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## Learning objectives

After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- describe issues around, and approaches to, raising mental health issues related to 'bites' in the consultation
- apply clinical knowledge to a presentation of fever and rash in a returned traveller
- suggest strategies to use in undifferentiated presentations of a child to exclude the potential diagnosis of a spider bite
- construct a public health strategy for mammalian bite prevention based in your practice
- devise a method to answer some consultation questions related to various bites.

## Category 1 – SGL questions

### Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC codes: S12, S13, P01

The potential for a patient to experience mental health issues after being bitten by an animal or bed bugs – two examples raised in articles in this month's *Australian Family Physician* – is something that may not be high on the list of issues that may get covered in a consultation relating to a bite presentation.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss in a small group your views on the issue of mental health raised in the articles. Does it match your clinical experience? How would you consider raising the concept of mental health after 'bites' with a patient or parent? What strategies can you use to raise and explore the issue in a consultation?

### Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: A03, S07, A78

Returned travellers with fever and rash can present a diagnostic and management dilemma for the general practitioner. Esler's article in this month's *AFP* discusses one potential cause, dengue fever, which has had a recent outbreak in northern Queensland.

- Suggested learning activities:

Each person find 2–3 pictures of rashes that a returned traveller may present with, and some information about the country or area that the patient may have visited. Then mix the pictures up and discuss the likely diagnosis or differential diagnoses of the patient. Compare any pictures of the same condition. What are the similarities? What are the cues that may help you identify the condition?

Brainstorm potential causes of fever and rash in a returned traveller. Then develop or locate a resource that could help you in practice with useful information such as incubation period, risk locations and clinical features.

### Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: A05, S12, S13

The article by Braitberg and Segal in this issue of *AFP* discusses some of the presentations that children may have after being bitten by a red back or funnel web spider. Many of the clinical features may be nonspecific, particularly if the patient is a 2 year old who presents unwell or 'not right', and there is no witness to suggest a spider bite and the child and the parent cannot tell you what happened.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss in your group how you approach the consultation of a 2 year old who has recently been noted to be 'not right'. What are the likely causes? What might alert you to the less common causes, such as spider bite? When would you consider hospitalisation?

### Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: S13

The article by Dendle and Looke in this issue of *AFP*, which discusses mammalian bites, reminds us of the public health importance of mammalian bites.

- Suggested learning activity: identify what you could do in your practice to raise awareness of this problem. Are there any groups that you would try to target information to? If so, how? What types of information may be available?

### Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC codes: S12, A03, S07

At times, finding the information to answer a question you have, or that a patient asks, is a challenge.

- Suggested learning activity: find answers to each of the following questions:
  - should I notify the local health department/relevant authority on suspicion or actual diagnosis of dengue fever?
  - where can I find information on bed bugs for the patient who runs a bed and breakfast establishment and is asking about it?
  - where can I find photos to show patients to help identify the type of spider they think may have bitten them?