



Yellow Sac Spider

Spider venom, like snakebite venom, is generally either neurotoxic or cytotoxic. Generally, it is the web dwellers that have **neurotoxic** venom and the non-web dwellers have the **cytotoxic** venom.

Cytotoxic venom affects the cellular tissue usually restricted to the area of the bite but can spread. The bite is at first painless with symptoms developing about 2-8 hours after the bite. It starts by resembling a mosquito sting, becoming more painful and swollen. Eventually it ulcerates into a large surface lesion (up to 10 centimeters) that will require medical attention. This type of bite would result from members of the genera *Loxosceles* (family Sicariidae) and *Cheiracanthium* (family Miturgidae) (*Yellow Sac Spider*). Treatment with antibiotics might be required to treat secondary infections. The wound will take between two and 4 weeks to heal but the lesion might take months to improve. In some cases ugly scarring might occur that might require plastic surgery.



Sac Spider Bite



Sac Spider Bite 10 Days

More specifically, the bite of *Cheiracanthium* (*Yellow Sac Spider*) presents as two spots, 4-8mm apart, where the fangs penetrated the skin and are yellow-green, the color of the venom. After 4-8 hours, mild inflammation, swelling and pain develop. A blister may form over the necrotic lesion after a few days. After this sloughs, an irregular round, ulcerated wound of about 10mm remains. The wound is inflamed, swollen and painful. The wound could start to heal after 10 days but occasionally takes months. In some extreme cases, skin grafts have been necessary. The use of antibiotics is usually required should secondary infections set in but this could be prevented by the use of an antibacterial cream such as Betadine. There is no anti-venom and an anti-tetanus injection is usually necessary. Some patients develop a mild fever and



Sac Spider Bite 3 days



Sac Spider Bite 6 Weeks

headaches after about 3 days and the condition is sometimes misdiagnosed as tick bite fever. However, tick bite fever symptoms develop after about a 10 day incubation period after being bitten, by which stage the bite will have turned black and the surrounding area swollen and red.