

### **Biphasic reaction**

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A 66-year-old former bee-keeper, with known bee venom hypersensitivity, was stung by a bee on the lower arm. He immediately took two antihistamine tablets and ensured that he had his adrenaline autoinjector to hand. In addition to immediate local swelling and erythema, within 10 minutes the patient noticed his skin and scalp were itchy. He felt weak and faint and needed to lie down.

He decided to use his adrenaline autoinjector and within minutes felt much improved. Nonetheless, he decided to attend hospital (as previously advised) to ensure that nothing else needed to be done. The car journey took approximately 30 minutes.

On arrival at the hospital, he was asked to wait for an available doctor. After a further 30 minutes, he noticed patches of urticaria developing, and his speech was becoming difficult because of marked tongue and throat angioedema. He was rushed into the resuscitation bay where he was given further intramuscular adrenaline, intravenous hydrocortisone, and 100% oxygen by face mask. It was explained that he was having a biphasic reaction and needed to be detained in hospital.