

MEDICAL EDUCATION

SPEAKERS NETWORK

ESTD **96** DATE

TRENDING MEDICAL EDUCATION TOPIC

Shark Attacks

If your medical staff needs an update on the incidence of shark attacks and treatment of injuries, consider contacting our office to book a speaker on this topic at 877-505-4777 or info@speakersnetwork.com.

What is the problem?

The total number of shark bites worldwide is extremely low, given the number of people participating in aquatic recreation each year. Most incidents are related to surfing and other board sports. The United States has the highest number of unprovoked shark attacks globally, with 33 in 2020, including three fatalities. Fatality rates have been declining for decades, reflecting advances in beach safety, medical treatment, and public awareness. Nevertheless, when shark attacks occur, they cause extreme mutilation, even with a single bite. Even when there is no fatality, shark bites can cause massive blood loss, amputation, and vital organ puncture. It is important to manage a shark bite with an interprofessional team and prioritize airway, breathing, and circulation.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss risk factors for attack and identify high-risk areas
2. Properly assess for vascular injury
3. Debride tissue and care for wounds

How do we know this is a problem?

International Shark Attack File <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/shark-attacks/>
<https://casereports.bmj.com/content/2015/bcr-2015-212380>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507855/>