

The Oregon Poison Center at Oregon Health & Science University hopes to better understand spider bites in the Northwest by determining which spiders bite, which cause skin loss (ulcers), and specifically whether the hobo spider does either.

Spider bites have been the subject of much folklore in medicine, but there is little evidence directly linking Pacific Northwest spider bites to ulceration. Often a person will see a red mark on their skin, see a spider in the house or area, and attribute the mark to the spider.

The Northwest native hobo spider has been implicated as a source of ulcers and skin infections for many years. Its venom may cause skin ulcers when injected into the skin of animals, but there is debate about whether the spider is even capable of biting human beings.

If you have seen a spider bite you in the last week and have *caught, crushed or trapped the spider*, we would like you to call the Oregon Poison Center at **800-222-1222**. We will send you a postage paid package with a container to send the spider back to us. We will contact you and ask you questions about the events surrounding the spider bite.

All spiders collected will be sent to a local expert in identifying Northwest spiders. The species of spider will be linked with the description of the lesion to determine which spiders bite and the effects of those bites.