

Snake Bite Emergency Protocol



There is no one treatment for all snake bites. The correct snake bite first aid depends on the snake's venom and the bite symptoms. Antivenom is the only proven medical care for life threatening symptoms. Antivenom should only be administered at a medical facility.

Cytotoxic Venom



Cell destroying venom causing tissue damage. Rarely life threatening.

Neurotoxic Venom



Fast acting venom that affects the nervous system. Respiratory failure is the major concern.

Haemotoxic Venom



Effects the blood of the patient. May cause the blood to thicken, or to thin. Slow acting.

First Aid Techniques

First aid should be focused upon transporting the patient to professional medical assistance. Do not try to catch the snake for identification.

Painful Progressive Swelling Syndrome

- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Remove all jewellery.
- **Do not apply a pressure bandage.**
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling or splint.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Polyvalent antivenom may be required.

Progressive Weakness Syndrome

- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Remove all jewellery.
- **Apply a pressure bandage to the entire limb.**
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling, or splint.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Polyvalent antivenom may be required.

Bleeding Syndrome

- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- **Do not apply a pressure bandage.**
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling or splint.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Monovalent antivenom may be required.

For assistance contact the Poison Information Helpline on +27(0)21 931-6129.

Bites In The Night

Bites in the Night is a venomous animal employee engagement program that focuses on the 3 principles of working in areas inhabited by venomous animals. These 3 principles greatly reduce the chances of being bitten or stung by offer a unique understanding of venomous animals. Bites In the Night also promotes your environmental policy, reinforces your emergency protocols and empowers employees to react in a responsible way to venomous animals in the workplace. Presented by Jonathan Leeming.

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