



Snake Bite Emergency Protocol

Snake bite first aid depends on the snake's venom and bite symptoms. Use your VenomWorks Identikit to make a positive identification. Make sure your emergency response plan is accessible.

Cytotoxic Venom



Cell destroying venom causing tissue damage. Usually not life threatening.

Neurotoxic Venom



Affects the nervous system. Respiratory failure is the major concern.

Haemotoxic Venom



Affects the blood of the patient. May cause the blood to thicken, or to thin.

First Aid Techniques

Painful Progressive Swelling Syndrome

- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient's skin.
- 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.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient's skin.
- Remove all jewellery.
- **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.

Bleeding Syndrome

- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient's skin.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- **Do not apply a pressure bandage.**
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling or splint.
- Nothing to be taken orally.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Monovalent antivenom may be required.

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



For further information or training, contact the VenomWorks team on info@venomworks.com