



# Poison Information Center



A Unique Facility for Health Care Professionals  
and General Public

## Tips for First Aid for Snake Bite



**DON'T DELAY, CALL IMMEDIATELY**

**Toll Free No. 1800-425-0207**

**Monday to Friday 9 am 5 pm**

**Saturday 9 am 1 pm**

**Web: [www.picjssep.jssuni.edu.in](http://www.picjssep.jssuni.edu.in)**

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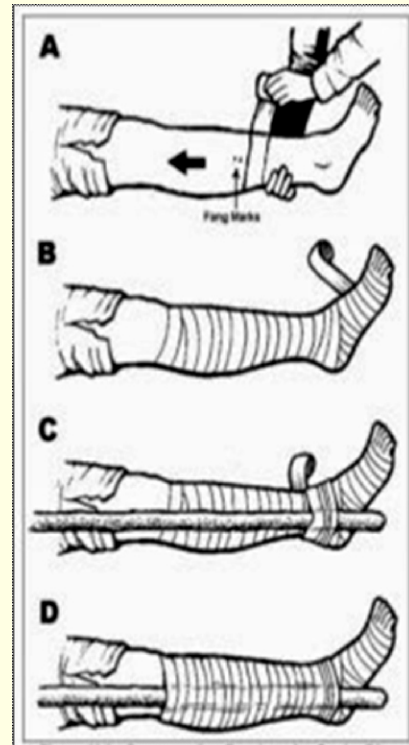
**For any poison related queries call us at**



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### WHAT TO DO WHEN A SNAKE BITES

- Identify species of snake. (Necessary for anti-venom treatment)
- Move away from the snake.
- Stay Calm. Keep your heart rate down. Do not panic.
- Do not elevate the bite. Keep it below the heart.
- If you're travelling with a group, send a person to the nearest place for help.
- Remove any jewellery or clothing that could become constricting when the bitten area swells.
- Clean the bite site with soap and water or antiseptic and wipe before administering any other snake bite first aid.
- Wrap bite area tightly with ace bandage. Start below the bite and work your way up, do NOT wrap too tight, restricting circulation.
- Maintain gap of two fingers while wrapping the bite area.



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- Immobilize or splint, if the bite is on an extremity, to prevent movement. This helps keep the venom from spreading more quickly.
- Remember, just because you are bitten doesn't mean you are going to die.
- Venomous snake bites can be fatal, but often they are not. Just follow these steps to assure you don't become another victim.
- Avoid previously used snake bite kits, such as those containing razor blades and suction bulbs.
- One **MUST** remain calm until help arrives.

### **PREVENTIONS**

- Avoid areas where snakes may be hiding, such as under rocks and logs.
- Although most snakes are not poisonous, refrain from picking up or playing with them.
- If you walk often, consider buying a kit to treat snakebite (available at camping stores).
- Probe by with a cane where it will happen before entering an area where they cannot see your feet; Snakes will try to avoid it if given enough warning.
- When working in an area known to have snakes, wear long pants and boots if possible.

### **DO NOT**

- **DO NOT** apply a tourniquet.
- **DO NOT** apply cold compresses to the site of the bite.
- **DO NOT** cut the bite area with a knife or a razor blade.
- **DO NOT** try to suck the venom by mouth.
- **DO NOT** give stimulants or pain medications to the person, unless the doctor tells you.
- **DO NOT** give the person anything by mouth.
- **DO NOT** raise the site of the bite above the level of the heart of the person.

### **The BIG-4 Indian Venomous Snakes**

- 1) Common Cobra
- 3) Saw Scaled Viper

- 2) Common Krait
- 4) Russell Viper



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