

SNAKES IN INDIA FIRST AID

(Basic Life Support, Series 4A)

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Depending on the type of snake, symptoms may include a pair of puncture marks at the wound, redness and swelling severe pain at the site of the bite.



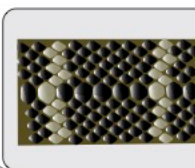
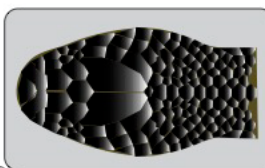
Other signs include nausea and vomiting, labored breathing, disturbed vision, increased salivation and sweating, numbness or tingling around face, limbs.



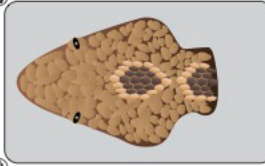
Lay or sit the person down with the bite below the level of the heart. Tell him/her to stay calm and still.



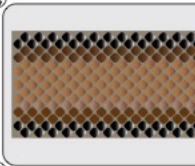
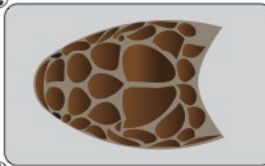
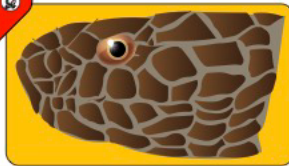
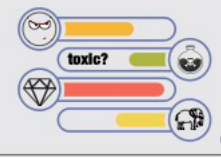
Wash the wound with warm soapy water immediately. Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing. Do not use any pressurizing or restricting bandage.



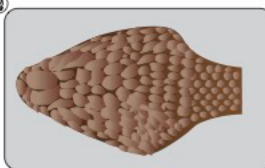
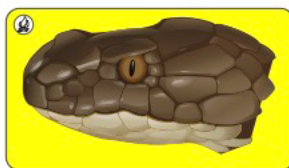
Common Krait (*Bungarus Cerelus*) is undoubtedly the most venomous snake in India. With nocturnal aggression and a venom 15 times more potent than that of cobra, it causes the most significant number of bites.



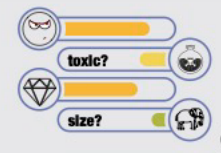
Russels Viper (*Daboia Russelli*) has hemotoxic venom. Although the venom doesn't act as rapidly as Krait's, this venom causes permanent destruction of muscles and organs. Most bites result in serious injuries.



Spectacled Cobra (*Naja Naja*) is common in India - however, due to its calmer temperament, unless provoked it rarely bites. Cobra venom is neurotoxic and can cause respiratory arrest in a matter of few hours.



Saw Scaled Viper (*Echis Carinatus*) is a small viper. It is much smaller than a human. Hence, although highly venomous, its bite seldom results in fatality. If left untreated, it will cause serious tissue damage.



Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it (risk of another bite). Furthermore, the antivenom in India is polyvalent, which means it works for all types of snakes and venoms.



Do not slash the wound with a knife. Do not suck out the venom (it only works in movies). Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water or turmeric.



Do not eat or drink anything except a teaspoon of water. Do not drink alcohol as a pain killer. Do not drink caffeinated beverages. They will increase spread of venom.



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