

# Snake Bite First Aid

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## TRY NOT TO GET BITTEN

- Don't Handle them
- Don't keep them
- If needed then also minimize handling
- Give them respect

## Myths

If you are bitten by snake you are going to die

All snakes are venomous and they attack human beings

Snakes take revenge

Mantras can save you from snake bites

If you have snake stone , you are immune to snake venom

You can orally suck venom from bite

Incise at the site of bite to remove venom from the body

## Facts

Not all snakes are venomous, majority are non-venomous ( In India out of 276 types of snakes, only 61 are venomous, and again out of those, 20 are sea snakes)

Snake bite is always defensive in nature, they will avoid human beings if given adequate warning

Nearly 60% of the time snake do not inject venom when they bite (It's called as dry bite)

There are no confirmed cases of human predation by snakes

## Facts

Snakes do not take revenge, their brain is not developed to remember past

Snake stone like `Nagmani' is a business of some people, snakes do not produce any `Mani'

Mantras or prayers can't save you if there is envenomation after snake bite, Anti Snake Venom Serum is the only remedy

You can neither orally suck venom from the bite like hero does in movie nor remove it by incision at the site of bite



## Facts

Anacondas and pythons are non-venomous snakes and they do not attack human beings

If received proper treatment on time, anybody can survive snake bites

Snake venom is a complex structure of Proteins & enzymes, even we can digest it , only there should not be any injury in the mouth and digestive system, from where it can enter our circulatory system

As per our law snake bite has to be reported to the police

## Statistics

Around 10000 deaths due to snake bites in India (mainly because of delay or unavailability of medical treatment) **and therefore we kill each and every snake**

More than 20,000 deaths because of rabies in India, **Do we kill each and every dog?**

Around 60% of deaths in the world because of venomous snake bite, occur in South and east Asia, mainly due to manual agriculture practices, superstitions and lack of medical facilities

## Snake-facts

- Snakes do not have external ears
- They do not have hair on their body
- Majority of them have good eyesight
- They have excellent olfactory sense (I.e. smelling, they smell with the help of tongue)
- They do not have limbs (hands and legs)
- They do not have eyelids
- They do not drink milk, they are predators, they eat other animals like, rats, frogs, birds, snakes etc.



## Common venomous snakes of Mumbai

### Snakes with neurotoxic venom



Cobra

- Drooping eyelids
- Difficulty speaking, opening the mouth or protruding tongue
- Difficulty supporting the neck & head
- Difficulty swallowing
- Difficulty breathing



Krait

## Common venomous snakes of Mumbai

Snakes with Anti-haemostatic venom



Russell's Viper

### Symptoms

- Swelling at the bite site ( In most of the cases but not all the time)
- Continual bleeding from the bite site
- Bleeding from the gums & nose
- Unuswal bruising appearing away from the bite site.
- Blistering is sometimes seen.



Saw Scaled Viper



Bamboo Pit Viper

## First aid

Do IT

R.I.G.H.T

R

Reassure the patient, 70% of snake bites are from non-venomous species & 50% of bites by venomous species actually inject venom.

I

Immobilized as in case of fracture without compression

GH

Get to hospital fast

T

Tell the doctor of any symptoms such as drooping eyelids that manifests on the way to hospital & time of bite .

## What not to do

Do not eat or drink anything unless okayed by medical sources

Do not engage in any physical activity

Do not apply oral suction to bite

Do not cut or incise bite mark with blade

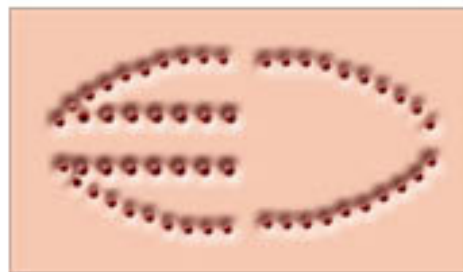
Do not wash the wound

Do not apply either hot or cold packs

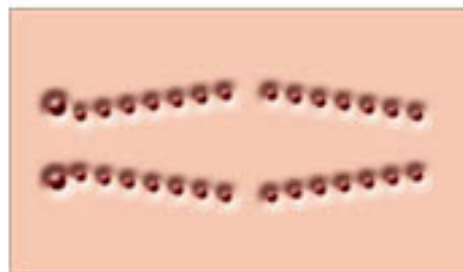
Do not waste time or take any risks trying to kill, bag or bring in offending snake



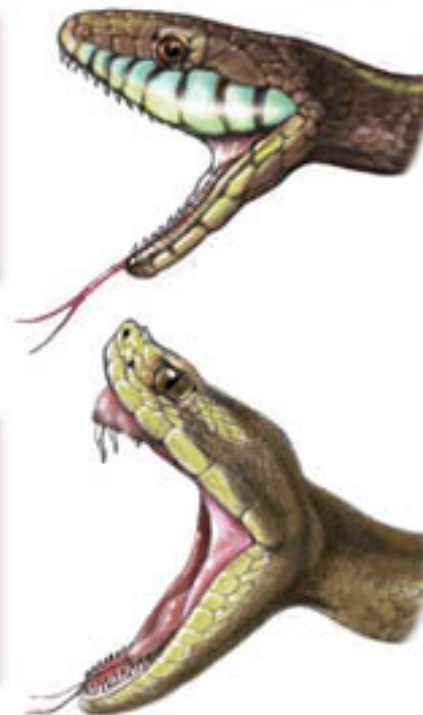
## Bite patterns – not dependable



Nonvenomous



Venomous





## Anti snake venom serum

The only treatment available for venomous snake bites is **ASVS, anti snake venom serum**, it is a polyvalent, useful against Cobra, Krait, Russell's viper and Saw scaled viper, which are the common venomous snakes in India



This has to be administered I V and there are chances of anaphylactic shock, therefore it can be administered only under medical supervision

## Prevention

- **Even though most snakes are not venomous, avoid picking up or playing with any snake unless you have been properly trained.**
- **When handling venomous snakes always keep your eye on snakes**
- **Do not thrust hands or feet into any areas if you cannot see into the area.**
- **Always use equipment available to you, do not try to outsmart the snake.**

**This is for  
those who go  
out in the  
nature**

- **Never hike, camp, work or collect specimens in areas where there are venomous snakes unless accompanied by at least two companions. One to stay with the victim and the other to go get help. All parties should know what to do.**
- **If you come across any snake in the field and don't know positively what it is or isn't, do not approach it, try and examine it or photograph it (unless you have a long telephoto or zoom lens). Move away from it as expediently as possible.**

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nature**

- **If you work with venomous snakes in a public (zoo/ exhibit) or private collection or in a museum or university laboratory, never open their cage without a companion nearby who is familiar with snakebite first-aid**
- **Never handle or attempt to handle venomous snakes without at least one trained companion present**
- **If you are not an experienced venomous snake handler, don't try handling or catching them without first obtaining extensive experience and training by someone who is trained**



Thank you