SNAKE BITE & FUNNEL WEB SPIDER BITE

Ensure Safety for Self and Others
Call an Ambulance - Triple Zero (000)
Lay Down - Keep Still - PIT Immediately

Snake Bite Signs & Symptoms

Any or all of the following:

Fang marks – two, one or a mark or scratch (localised redness and bruising are uncommon in Australia).

Sometimes painless without visible marks.

For Brown snake, may initially collapse, or confusion followed by partial or complete recovery (useful information on handover).

Swollen sore glands in groin or armpit of the bitten limb.

Headache / Abdominal pain / nausea / vomiting.

Blurred or double vision / drooping eyelids.

Difficulty speaking, swallowing, breathing.

Limb weakness or paralysis.

Bleeding due to inability to clot blood and/or muscle damage.

Respiratory weakness or arrest.

Funnel Web Spider Bite Signs & Symptoms

Any or all of the following:

Intense pain at bite site, but little local reaction.

Tingling around the mouth.

Profuse sweating, excessive saliva.

Abdominal pain.

Muscular twitching.

Breathing difficulties.

Confusion leading to unconsciousness.

Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)

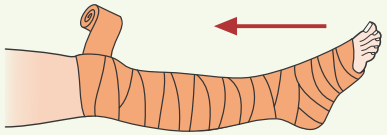
This is one method of immobilisation for bites on a limb. There may be other PIT methods that are acceptable to use.

Step 1 Pressure bandage

Lay the casualty down and stop them from moving.

Apply a broad (10-15cm wide) pressure bandage as firm as for a sprained ankle, starting at the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, continuing upward, covering as much of the limb as possible.

(You should not be able to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin).



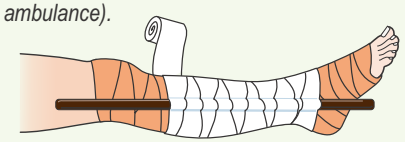
Step 2 Splint the limb

Splint the limb, including the joints, on either side of the bite to restrict movement.

Where possible, use a bandage and a long thin rigid object for the splint.

Keep the casualty and the limb completely still.

Bring transport to the casualty if possible, get to medical care urgently *(preferably ambulance)*.



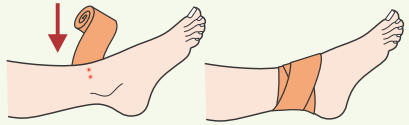
Alternative method

Lay the casualty down and stop them from moving.

Apply firm pressure on the bite.

Start with a broad pressure bandage over the bite as firm as for a sprained ankle.

Continue then with another bandage, following STEP 1 and 2 *(on the left)*.



Note: If casualty stops breathing cease all treatment and provide CPR

Elasticised bandages 10-5cm wide are preferred. If unavailable, improvise i.e. use clothing or other material, torn into strips.

If the bite is on the torso, direct pressure on the bite site may be useful. If alone, the casualty should try to apply PIT and seek help. If help can't come to the casualty then they may have to move to find urgent help.

Further advice on all types of envenomation:

- Australian Venom Research Unit: avru.org
- Poisons Information Centre: phone - 13 11 26
- Australian Resuscitation Council: resus.org.au

PIT is also recommended for Blue-Ringed Octopus and Cone Shell bites and stings.

HAZARD = Remote areas/not getting help quickly enough. Not recognising or ignoring the bite. Panic. Type of snake. Venom moving through the body.

RISK = **LIFE-THREATENING**. Muscle damage. Kidney failure. Respiratory arrest. Cardiac arrest.

DO NOT kill the snake.
DO NOT cut the bite or use a tourniquet.
DO NOT wash or suck the bite or discard clothing.

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