# **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.



## **Splint the limb**

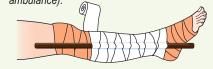
Splint the limb, including the joints, on either side of the bite to restrict movement.

**Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)** 

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).



RISK = LIFE-THREATENING.

Muscle damage. Kidney failure.

Respiratory arrest. Cardiac arrest.

### **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.

Step 1

from moving.

**Pressure bandage** 

Lay the casualty down and stop them

Apply a broad (10-15cm wide) pressure

bandage as firm as for a sprained ankle,

bitten limb, continuing upward, covering

starting at the fingers or toes of the

(You should not be able to easily slide a

finger between the bandage and the skin).

as much of the limb as possible.

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.

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

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.

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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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