

SNAKE BITE & FUNNEL WEB SPIDER BITE

Ensure the safety of everyone

Call the ambulance on
Triple Zero (000)

Treat immediately

Snake Bite Signs & Symptoms



Any or all of the following:

- Double or single fang / bite marks or a scratch
- Headache
- Abdominal pain / nausea / vomiting
- Occasionally collapse or confusion then recovery
- Blurred or double vision / drooping eyelids
- Difficulty speaking, swallowing, breathing
- Swollen tender glands in groin or armpit of bitten limb
- Limb weakness or paralysis
- 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
- Abdominal pain
- Profuse sweating, excessive saliva
- Muscular twitching
- Breathing difficulties
- Confusion leading to unconsciousness

Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)

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

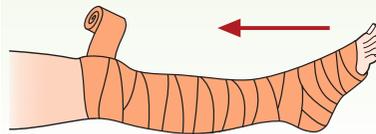
Step 1

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

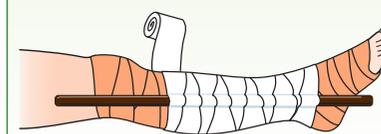
Splint the limb

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 as shown 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 not on the limb, firm 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.

Advice on all types of envenomation is available from:

- 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