What to Do After a Snakebite?

What Helps & What Harms

Instructions

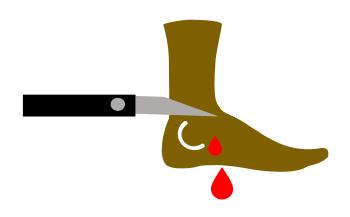
- Each slide shows an action taken after a snakebite
- Think: Is this the right thing to do, or not?
- When prompted type "Do" or "Don't" in the Zoom chat
- The correct response and explanation will follow





Stay calm and reassure the bitten person

Snakebites are often dramatic and cause intense fear Staying calm helps reduce anxiety and slows venom spread





Incise the bite wound to extract venom

Cutting the wound increases the risk of infection and can cause life-threatening bleeding in victims with venominduced clotting problems





Move slowly away from the snake

Staying close or moving away suddenly may provoke another bite





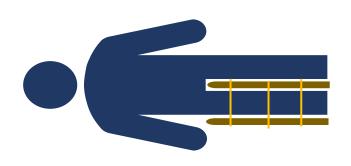
Remove anything that can constrict the bitten limb like rings, shoes, watches or tight clothing Local swelling after a snakebite can start quickly and turn tight items into dangerous tourniquets : cutting off blood flow and worsening tissue damage





Attempt to suck out the venom

This is ineffective and risks infecting the wound





Immobilise the victim and the bitten limb

Keeping the limb still helps slow systemic absorption of venom



Take the patient to a traditional healer



Delays in accessing antivenom can be fatal. Traditional remedies may also cause harm.

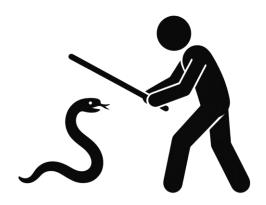




Tie a tourniquet

Tying a tourniquet cuts off blood flow and can worsen tissue damage.

In severe cases, it may even lead to limb loss





Kill the biting snake

Snakes are vital to the ecosystem.

Also, trying to kill the snake wastes time and increases the risk of more bites.

Focus on getting the patient to a hospital quickly.







Rush the patient to the nearest hospital

Early arrival at a hospital increases the chances of receiving timely treatment including antivenom.

Delays can be life-threatening