
Graduate Certificate in Snake Handling

Snakebite First Aid

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Snakebite First Aid refers to the immediate measures taken to provide care to a person who has been bitten by a snake. It is crucial to administer first aid promptly to prevent further complications and increase the victim's chances of survival. Below are the key steps to follow in Snakebite First Aid:

1. **Stay Calm**: It is essential to remain calm and keep the victim calm as well. Panic can lead to increased heart rate and faster venom absorption.
2. **Keep the Victim Still**: The victim should be encouraged to stay still to slow down the spread of venom in the body. Moving too much can increase heart rate and circulation, causing the venom to spread more quickly.
3. **Call for Help**: Contact emergency services immediately or transport the victim to the nearest medical facility. Provide as much information about the snake as possible to help medical professionals determine the appropriate treatment.
4. **Remove Jewelry and Tight Clothing**: Remove any jewelry or tight clothing near the bite area to prevent constriction as swelling occurs.
5. **Positioning**: Position the victim in a way that the bite area is at or below the level of the heart to slow down venom spread. However, do not elevate the bite area as it can increase circulation and venom absorption.
6. **Clean the Bite Area**: Clean the bite area with soap and water, avoiding any cuts or abrasions. Do not attempt to suck out the venom or use a tourniquet as these methods are ineffective and can cause more harm.
7. **Apply a Bandage**: Use a clean, loose bandage to cover the bite area. The bandage should be wrapped firmly but not too tight. This helps to slow down venom absorption and reduce swelling.
8. **Immobilize the Bite Area**: Immobilize the affected limb with a splint or sling to prevent movement and minimize the spread of venom.
9. **Monitor Vital Signs**: Keep a close eye on the victim's vital signs, including pulse rate, breathing, and blood pressure. Note any changes and report them to medical professionals.
10. **Do Not Give Food or Drink**: Avoid giving the victim any food or drink, as it can interfere with medical treatment. Wait for medical professionals to assess the situation and provide appropriate care.

Remember, Snakebite First Aid is only the initial step in treating a snakebite. It is crucial to seek professional

medical help as soon as possible for proper evaluation and treatment.