

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

EE-13 SNAKE BITES

ALS/ILS/BLS

1. Initial Management:
 - 1.1. Move victim from vicinity of the snake.
 - 1.2. Have the victim lie down and remain clam.
 - 1.3. Remove all jewelry and rings if the bite is on the upper extremity.
 - 1.4. Begin rapid transport to the nearest appropriate hospital.
 - 1.5. ALS/ILS:
 - 1.5.1. Initiate a large bore IV of ND or LR at 20ml per hour in unaffected extremity.
 - 1.5.2. Do NOT delay transport to establish IV.
 - 1.5.3. Start IV en-route and contact medical control.
 - 1.6. Contact receiving hospital ASAP.
 - 1.7. Anticipate hypotension and treat accordingly per specific SOP.
2. Treatment:
 - 2.1. Cleanse the bite with soap and water if available.
 - 2.2. Splint or immobilize the affected extremity slightly below the level of the heart.
 - 2.3. Measure the circumference of the affected extremity.
 - 2.4. Do not apply any ice or cold water to the bite.
 - 2.5. Do not make an incision and/or attempt to suction the bite.
 - 2.6. If signs of envenomation are present on an extremity:
 - 2.6.1. Apply a 1 inch wide constricting band 2 to 4 inches above the bite.
 - 2.6.2. The band shall be loose enough to allow a finger between the band and the skin.
 - 2.6.3. Do Not apply a band if more than 30 minutes has elapsed since the bite occurred.
 - 2.6.4. Do Not remove the band once applied until the victim is examined by a physician.
 - 2.7. Distal pulses shall be checked regularly and documented.
 - 2.7. The band must be adjusted as needed to maintain circulation.
3. Note:
 - 3.1. If snake is dead upon arrival, place in a container and transport with the patient.
 - 3.2. DO NOT attempt to capture snake or jeopardize scene safety.