The correct snake bite first aid depends on the snake’s venom and bite symptoms.

**Cytotoxic Venom**
- Cell destroying venom causing tissue damage. Usually not life threatening.

**Neurotoxic Venom**
- Affects the nervous system. Respiratory failure is the major concern.

**Haemotoxic Venom**
- Affects the blood of the patient. May cause the blood to thicken, or to thin.

## First Aid Techniques

### Painful Progressive Swelling Syndrome
- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient’s skin.
- Remove all jewellery.
- Do not apply a pressure bandage.
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling or splint.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Polyvalent antivenom may be required.

### Progressive Weakness Syndrome
- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient’s skin.
- Remove all jewellery.
- Apply a pressure bandage.
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling, or splint.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Polyvalent antivenom may be required.

### Bleeding Syndrome
- Secure the area.
- Lay the patient down.
- Alert security or safety officer, arrange for transportation.
- Mark the location of the snake bite on the patient’s skin.
- Ask the snake bite questions.
- Do not apply a pressure bandage.
- Immobilise the affected limb using a sling or splint.
- Nothing to be taken orally.
- Immediately transport the patient to medical assistance.
- Monovalent antivenom may be required.

For assistance with snake bites, contact the Poison Information Helpline on +27(0)21 931-6129.

For further information or training, contact the VenomWorks team on info@venomworks.com

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