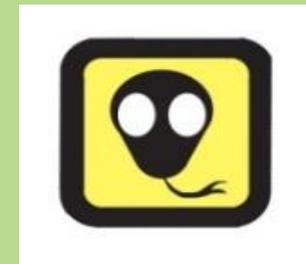


PREVENTION OF SNAKE - BITES



**National Poisons Information Centre
National Hospital of Sri Lanka
Colombo**



VENOMOUS LAND SNAKES IN SRI LANKA

There are 96 species of land and sea snakes in Sri Lanka. 50 snakes are endemic and only 6 types of land snakes are considered as venomous and life-threatening to humans.

COBRA (*Naja naja*)



- Has a hood with 2 black spots.
- Head is oval with ill-defined neck
- Variable dorsal markings along the body

RUSSELL'S VIPER (*Daboia russelli russelli*)



- Triangular head with a “V” mark and narrow neck.
- Three rows of dark brown, oval shaped patches, edged with black and white along the body.

SAW-SCALED VIPER (*Echis carinatus*)



- Triangular head with narrow neck.
- White dagger or bird's foot shaped mark on the dorsum of the head.

SRI LANKAN KRAIT (*Bungarus ceylonicus*)



- Bluish black in colour with white rings, extending to belly.
- Old snakes may be brownish with faint white rings

COMMON KRAIT (*Bungarus caeruleus*)



- Narrow white rings in pairs on the dorsum.
- Black glossy snake with a white belly.

HUMP NOSED VIPER

Hypnale hypnale



- Has an upturned snout and a pit between eye and nostril on each side.(loreal pit)
- Not highly venomous

Signs of Envenoming

Common effects

Abdominal pain, Nausea, Vomiting

Specific effects

RUSSELLS VIPER

Neurotoxicity (ptosis, external ophthalmoplegia)

Coagulopathy (spontaneous bleeding such as haematuria, GI bleeding, mucosal bleeding, prolonged clotting time, incoagulable blood)

COBRA -

Local effects- swelling, tissue necrosis

Neurotoxicity- ptosis, external ophthalmoplegia, respiratory paralysis, limb paralysis Coagulopathy is rare and mild.



Specific effects

KRAIT-

Neurotoxicity-ptosis, external ophthalmoplegia, respiratory muscle paralysis, limb paralysis,coma
Local effects undetectable or minimal. No coagulopathy

HUMP NOSED VIPER-

Commonly cause only local swelling
Occasionally a haemorrhagic blister at the bite site and tender regional lymphadenopathy. Rarely coagulopathy, acute renal failure and mild neurotoxicity



**MILDLY VENOMOUS SNAKES IN
SRI LANKA**

නාඟ මාපිලා *Boiga forsteni*

නිදි මාපිලා *Boiga ceylonesis*

පළා පොළඟා *Trimeresurus trigonocephalus*

අඤ්ඤුල්ලා *Ahaetulla nasutus*

නිහලුවා *Balanophis ceylonesis*

දුඟර දුන්ඩා *Chrysopelea taprobanica*

රූන් මාපිලා *Boiga trigonatus trigonatus*

මල් ඝරා *Chrysopelea ornata sinhaleya*

NON VENOMOUS SNAKES IN SRI LANKA

පුල්ලි දත් කැටියා *Oligodon sublineatus*

අහර කුක්කා *Amphiesma stolata*

කොට/වැලි පිඹුරා *Enx conica brevis*

කට කළුවා *Elaphe helena Helena*

කුරුන් කරවලා *Haplocerecus ceylonesis*

දිය වර්ණ *Atretium schistosum*

දෙපත් නයා *Chlindrophis maculata*

පිඹුරා *Python molurus molurus*

ගැට රදනකයා *Dryocalamus nympa*

කබර රදනකයා *Lycodon striatus sinhaleyus*

ගැරඬියා *Coluber nucusus maximus*

දෙපත් තුඩුල්ලා *Rhinophis trevelyana*

වැරි දත් කැටියා *Oligodon taeniolatus ceylonicus*

මහ බිම් උල්ලා *Pseudotyphlops philippinus*

දිය බරියා/ දිය නයා *Xenochrophis piscator discator*

රත් දණ්ඩා / ලේ මැඬිල්ලා *Aspidura brachyorrhos*

පලා බරියා *Macrophisthodon*

අරහි දත් කැටියා *Oligodon arnesis*

දිය පොළඟා *Xenochrophis asperrimus*

රෙදි නයා/ දිය ගොයා *Acrochordus granulatus*

පුඹුරු කණ උල්ලා *Ramphotyphlops braminus*

අළු රදනකයා *Lycodon aulicus*

ඩුමන්ඩිහයිගේ වල්ගා ඇබයා *Rhinophis dnanmondhavi wall*

තර හාල් දණ්ඩා *Dendrelathis tristis*



in snakebites

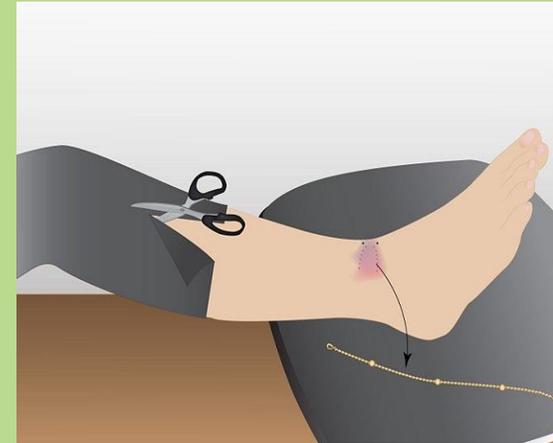
- ❖ Reassure the patient.
- ❖ Immobilise the patient and the bitten part.
- ❖ The bitten area should be washed gently with soap and running water.





in snakebites

- ❖ Remove rings, bangles, anklets, cords or tight clothing which could cause constriction if swelling occurs.
- ❖ Give paracetamol for pain relief.
- ❖ Take the victim to hospital as early as possible.



PREVENTION

- ❖ Protect the legs and feet by wearing shoes or boots, and ankle length garments.
- ❖ When walking at night, use a torch light to prevent treading on snakes.
- ❖ Do not put your hand into ant-hills, cavities in trees and under logs.
- ❖ Should be cautious when you remove fallen trees, logs and firewood.



PREVENTION

- ❖ Dispose garbage and junk regularly, and try to keep your home and surrounding area free of rats, mice, frogs, lizards, etc.
- ❖ Only knowledgeable persons should handle snakes, dead snake should be handled with great care as it may still be alive, and even when it appears dead, may inflict a reflex bite.
- ❖ Avoid walking in forests under the influence of alcohol/Narcotics/ Drugs.
- ❖ Be aware and take measures to protect from snake bites during harvesting time.



A FEW DONT'S

- **Incision of or application of suction to the bite of the wound is not advisable.**
- **The application of tourniquet is not recommended.**
- **Do not apply chemicals on the bitten area. E.g. Condys crystals.**



A FEW DONT'S

- **Medication administered by the nasal instillation of liquids such as oil or “Nasna” should not be permitted.**
- **Alcohol should not be given to drink.**
- **“Thambili” and “Kurumba” water and fruit juices should not be given**
- **Aspirin and aspirin containing drugs should not be given.**

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