

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

EE-13 SNAKE BITES - ENVENOMATIONS

ALS/ILS/BLS

- Patient Assessment and Initial Care protocol
 - Move patient from vicinity of the snake.
 - Have patient lie down and remain calm.
 - Remove all jewelry, rings or restrictive clothing from the affected area.
- Treatment
 - Splint and immobilize the bite site and/or extremity.
 - Draw a pen line around the leading edge of the local swelling and record the time.
 - Do not apply ice or cold water to the affected area.
 - Do not make an incision and/or attempt to suction the bite.
 - Initiate Transport
 - Contact Medical Control / receiving facility ASAP.
 - Anticipate and monitor for hypotension.
 - ALS/ILS:
 - Initiate IV/IO access
 - Large bore preferred.
 - Try to avoid using an affected extremity.
 - Treat hypotension per protocol.
 - Continue to monitor and reassess the patient.

***Note**

- If the snake is dead upon arrival, place in a sealing container and transport to the hospital.
 - If the snake is alive or an appropriate sealing container is not available:
 - Safely obtain photos of the snake involved.
 - DO NOT attempt to capture the snake and jeopardize scene safety.