

# SNAKE BITE & FUNNEL WEB SPIDER BITE

**Ensure Safety for Self and Others**  
**Call an Ambulance - Triple Zero (000)**  
**Treat Immediately**

## Snake Bite Signs & Symptoms

Any or all of the following:

- Double or single fang / bite marks or a scratch
- Swollen tender glands in groin or armpit of bitten limb
- Headache / Abdominal pain / nausea / vomiting
- Occasionally collapse or confusion then recovery
- Blurred or double vision / drooping eyelids
- Difficulty speaking, swallowing, breathing
- Limb weakness or paralysis
- Respiratory weakness or arrest



## Funnel Web Spider Bite Signs & Symptoms

Any or all of the following:

- Intense pain at bite site, but little local reaction
- Tingling around the mouth
- Profuse sweating, excessive saliva
- Abdominal pain
- Muscular twitching
- Breathing difficulties
- Confusion leading to unconsciousness



## Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)

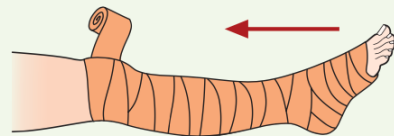
This is one method of immobilisation for bites on a limb. There may be other PIT methods that are acceptable to use.

### Step 1 Pressure bandage

Lay the casualty down and stop them from moving.

Apply a broad (10-15cm wide) pressure bandage as firm as for a sprained ankle, starting at the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, continuing upward, covering as much of the limb as possible.

*(You should not be able to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin).*



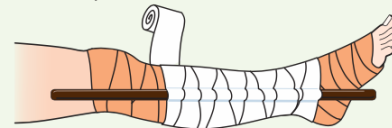
### Step 2 Splint the limb

Splint the limb, including the joints, on either side of the bite to restrict movement.

Where possible, use a bandage and a long thin rigid object for the splint.

Keep the casualty and the limb completely still.

Bring transport to the casualty if possible, get to medical care urgently (*preferably ambulance*).



### Alternative method

Lay the casualty down and stop them from moving.

Apply firm pressure on the bite.

Start with a broad pressure bandage over the bite as firm as for a sprained ankle.

Continue then with another bandage, following STEP 1 and 2 (*on the left*).



### Note: If casualty stops breathing cease all treatment and provide CPR

Elasticised bandages 10-5cm wide are preferred. If unavailable, improvise i.e. use clothing or other material, torn into strips.

If the bite is on the torso, direct pressure on the bite site may be useful.

If alone, the casualty should try to apply PIT and seek help. If help can't come to the casualty then they may have to move to find urgent help.

Further advice on all types of envenomation:

- Australian Venom Research Unit: [avru.org](http://avru.org)
- Poisons Information Centre: phone - 13 11 26
- Australian Resuscitation Council: [resus.org.au](http://resus.org.au)

PIT is also recommended for Blue-Ringed Octopus and Cone Shell bites and stings.