

Initial First Aid Instructions for Pit Viper Snakebite in Thailand

**Instructions for Venomous
Snakebite in Thailand and
Surrounding Countries for Pit
Viper Bites (Except Russel's
Viper)**

VIPER SNAKEBITE FIRST AID

Initial First Aid Before Arriving At Hospital

1. Remove bite victim from area snake is located, to prevent further bites.
2. Have victim lie down, and stay still. Reassure the person, inform that some bites are dry and don't contain any venom. Snake venom takes time to have effect, and it may be hours or days before there are severe symptoms. However, in some circumstances the life threatening effects of venom can be quite rapid and begin to occur in minutes.
3. Call emergency medical personnel to have them pick up the victim and transport to a major hospital. Or, if you can do it safely yourself, and the travel distance is not far, or no other forms of transportation are available, take the victim to the hospital in a vehicle immediately. If on a motorbike, put the bitten victim in the middle between the driver and someone in the back to hold him.
4. Reassure the victim, all bites can be treated.
5. **Do not wrap viper bites, or add any bandage.** There should be nothing touching the bite site.
6. ALSO AVOID:
 - alcohol
 - touching the wound
 - wiping
 - cutting it open
 - sucking wound with mouth
 - cauterization
 - excision
 - tourniquet
 - amputation
 - vacuum pump or syringe
 - injection or instillation of anything
 - electric shock
 - ice
 - herbal, folk remedies of any kind
 - tattooing
7. Remove all rings and jewelry from a bitten limb. Severe swelling may occur.

8. Keep the limb as immobile as possible using a splint or sling. Remember, stability is crucial, every muscle contraction sends the venom further on its path through the body.

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9. If problems develop with airway, circulation, or heart function - you must treat these with priority.

10. Absolutely no alcohol. No aspirin or any sedatives or other drugs.

11. Give nothing to drink except water, and only if the victim can swallow safely.

12. Do not attempt to kill the snake, but if the offending snake has already been killed, bring it with the victim to the hospital for identification. A lifeless looking snake can still bite and envenomate - even after the head is removed. Be very careful. If not taking the dead snake to the hospital, get photos of the head and body of the snake. This will help with identification and proper treatment.

13. Transport of the snakebite victim should be as quick as possible to the nearest large hospital. The bigger hospitals will have all the necessary life support equipment and usually have antivenom readily available to treat the snakebite victim.

Snake Bite Kits? Scam, and Dangerous – [Info Here](#) >