

# Initial First Aid Instructions for Spitting Cobra Venom in Eyes

## SPITTING COBRA VENOM IN THE EYES FIRST AID

If snake venom was just sprayed into your eyes from a snake, follow these steps.

1. Spitting cobra venom, or any snake venom which comes into contact with the eye of a human or animal can cause severe conjunctivitis and there is a risk of permanent eye damage (even blindness) and infection.
2. Flush the eye(s) immediately with clean bottled water ideally, or any water you can reach quickly. It is important to dilute the venom as soon as possible. If possible, the victim should hold the eyes under running water, opening them and rotating the eyes around in circles to ensure the venom is diluted all over the eyes. If no water is available, find another liquid you can use as a substitute - even beer, urine, or milk. Keep irrigating the eyes for 5-10 minutes.
3. If possible, tie a shirt or other cloth around the eyes - but not too snugly. The eye should be bandaged using a pad over the eye and dark glasses worn.
4. Ensure the victim does not rub the eyes.
5. Go quickly to the nearest hospital to assess damage to the delicate tissue of the eyes.

**NOTE** - I have witnessed a number of people receive venom in the eyes by one of the cobras. It causes intense pain. It is crucial to have a significant amount of clean water to rinse your eyes with at all times. The longer the undiluted venom is in contact with the delicate membranes in the eye, the more damage will result.

The people I know all recovered without significant loss of eyesight, so as long as you can rinse the venom very quickly, you will probably have a successful outcome.