

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Protocol Number: E-1
Effective Date: 7/1/2018
Review Date: 6/30/2021

ACUTE VENOMOUS SNAKEBITE

BLS CARE

Routine medical care.

Assess for oozing at the site of the bite. Notify next caregiver of the presence or absence of oozing.

Remove potentially constricting clothing or jewelry.

Document the progression of swelling along with the times of when the notation is made. Attempt to note progression every 15-30 minutes.

Do not apply ice or restrict blood or lymph flow with a tourniquet or constricting band.

Keep the site of the bite lower than the heart and restrict patient activity.

Attempt to identify snake. Do not attempt to capture a live snake.

Gather antivenin if available at the scene. Bring with the patient to the hospital.

ALS CARE

Routine medical care.

Pain control – refer to Protocol #M-2 (Pain Control)

NOTES:

Oozing at the site of the bite indicates envenomation.

Notify the receiving hospital as early as possible. Mixing of the antivenom can take 30 minutes.