

# TOXICITY

## and snakebite First-Aid



### PROGRESSIVE WEAKNESS SYNDROME PWS

Affects Nervous system Symptoms can be:

- > Pins and needles at area of bite.
- > Drooping eyelids (PTOSIS).
- > Slurred speech.
- > Difficulty in swallowing.
- > Blurred vision.
- > Increased sweating, nausea, and vomiting.
- > Respiratory muscles are slowly paralyzed leading to respiratory failure which can lead to death.
- > Keep victim calm.
- > Wrap the affected area in pressure bandages and apply a splint.
- > Assist with ventilation Immobilize the victim Rush victim to a hospital.
- > A blood pressure cuff or broad tourniquet may be used in Black Mamba bites.



### NEUROTOXIC

Black Mamba, Ancheita's / Angolan Cobra, Snouted Cobra and Cape Cobra

### CYTOTOXIC

Puff Adder and Mozambique Spitting Cobra



### PROGRESSIVE SWELLING SYNDROME PSS

Affects Tissue and Muscle Cells Symptoms can be:

- Bite area may have immediate burning pain. <
- Local swelling which may increase in area and affect the glands. <
- Blistering and necrosis may occur resulting in loss of fingers or limbs. <
- Deaths are rare in cytotoxic bites, but pain is intense and tissue damage is severe. <
- Keep victim calm. <
- Remove any wearables around the affected area. <
- Elevate the affected limb and immobilize it. <
- Rush victim to a hospital. <

Twig or Vine Snake and Boomslang

### HAEMOTOXIC

### PROGRESSIVE BLEEDING SYNDROME PBS

Affects Blood Clotting Symptoms can be:

- > • Little or no swelling at bite site.
- > • Bite will ooze blood.
- > • Headaches, confusion, nausea, vomiting, and sweating occurs after a few hours Bleeding from small cuts, nose, and mouth.
- > • Severe internal bleeding.
- > • Kidney and brain hemorrhage may occur in a few days.
- > • Keep victim calm.
- > • Immobilize the victim.
- > • Rush to a hospital.



DO NOT RUN • DO NOT PANIC • DO NOT CUT OR SUCK A SNAKEBITE • APPLY PRESSURE BANDAGES (unless neurotoxic)