

# POISON INFORMATION CENTER DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY JSS HOSPITAL, MYSORE - 04

Toll Free No. 1800-425-0207

# Definitions

- **Poison:** Is any substance which when introduced into the body or come in contact with any part of the body will produce ill effects or death.
- **Toxicology:** Toxicology is the science dealing with the properties, action, toxicity, lethal dose, estimation of and treatment of poisons.
- **Poison information centre**: It is a *specialized unit providing information on poisoning*, in principle to the whole community.

## **Functions**

- Its main functions are provision of *toxicological information* and *advice, management of poisoning cases*, provision of laboratory analytical services, *toxicovigilance activities, research, and education and training* in the prevention and treatment of poisoning.
- As part of its role in toxicovigilance, the centre advises on and is actively involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of measures for the *prevention of poisoning*.
- It also plays an important role in *developing contingency plans* for, and responding to, chemical disasters, in monitoring the adverse effects of drugs, and in handling problems of substance abuse

# Functions...

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- Provision of information and advice
- Patient management
- Laboratory services
- Teaching and training
- Toxicovigilance
- Prevention
- Drug information and Pharmacovigilance
- Substances of abuse ٠
- Environmental toxicology
- Contingency planning for chemical incidents and disasters
- Cooperation and interrelationships



### **First Aid Tips for Accidental Poisoning**

#### First Aid for ingested poison

- Do not try to make the victim or patient vomit.
- Have the container while you call us.

#### **First Aid for Dermatological exposure**

- Remove contaminated clothing, taking care to avoid contact with the chemical.
- Wash the skin with cool water continuously for 15 minutes and then wash gently with soap and water. Rinse well.







### **First Aid Tips for Accidental Poisoning**

#### First Aid for Eye exposure

 Hold the eyelids open, wash gently with tap water continuously for 10-15 minutes

#### **First Aid for Stings**

- Wash the area with soap or disinfectant and water.
- Remove any stings or tentacles attached to the skin.
- Apply ice if there is swelling
- If the person develops an allergic reaction (Rash, temperature, difficulty in breathing, swelling of the face and neck) take victim to a doctor immediately.



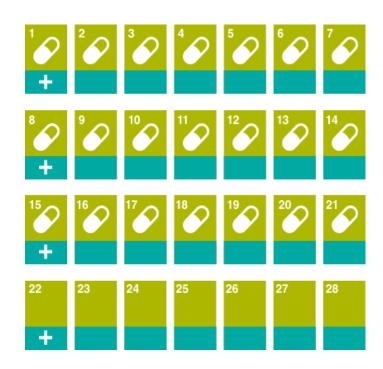
### Tips for Prevention of Accidental Poisoning in Elderly

- Make it easy to see the medication: Wear glasses or use strong lighting or use a magnifier.
- Never take medicines in the dark.
- Do not double the dose for the missed dose.
- Create a way to remember when doses of medicine have been taken.
- Write dose times on a calendar and make a check mark after each dose is taken.
- Place a tight seal on the medication containers and store them as required.
- Do not mix the medicine containers with others which might look alike.



### Tips for Prevention of Accidental Poisoning in Elderly

- Never replace your medications by borrowing from relatives or friends or neighbors.
- Keep the emergency phone numbers list near the telephone.
- Dispose outdated medicines. Never take expired medications. Some medications can become dangerous or ineffective over time.
- Be aware of potential drug interactions as some medicines interact dangerously with food or other medicines.
- Do not take any natural or herbal supplements without consulting your doctor.



### Paste the emergency contact number sticker of poison information centre near phone.

### Tips for Prevention of Accidental Poisoning in Children

#### **Poison Prevention! What to Do?**

- Use containers with child-resistant caps. These caps are child-resistant but they are not childproof
- Keep chemicals and medicines out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Keep all products in their original containers.

### Paste the emergency contact number sticker of poison information centre near phone.





### Tips for Prevention of Accidental Poisoning in Children

#### **Poison Prevention! What NOT to Do?**

- Do not leave containers open when using them.
- Do not transfer products from their original containers. Children who see liquid in a soft-drink bottle will think they can drink it.
- Do not remove labels from medicines or products. The label can contain important information.
- Do not put tablets into another container such as a purse or envelope.
- Do not refer to medicine or tablets as sweets to the children.
- Do not take your medicine in front of children as they often copy adults.



#### Poisoning agents at home

- **Kitchen:** Detergents, dishwasher tablets, bleach, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, polish, disinfectant, liquigel capsules, white spirit and batteries.
- **Bathroom:** Bleach, shower cleaner, toilet cleaner, cosmetics, toiletries, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste and mouthwash.
- **Bedroom:** Medicines, perfume, aftershave, nail polish remover, essential oils, herbal remedies and false teeth cleaners.
- Handbags/Briefcases: Medicines, alcohol hand gel, chewing gum, tobacco and cigarettes.
- **Shed or Garage:** Petrol, paraffin, car products, insect sprays or powders, rat poison, white spirit, glue and paint.
- Garden: Mushrooms, slug killer, plant food and weed killer

# Tips for First Aid for Snake Bite

#### WHAT TO DO WHEN A SNAKE BITES

- Identify species of snake. (Necessary for anti-venom treatment)
- Stay Calm. Keep your heart rate down. Do not panic.
- Do not elevate the bite. Keep it below the heart.
- If you're travelling with a group, send a person to the nearest place for help.
- Remove any jewellery or clothing that could become constricting when the bitten area swells.



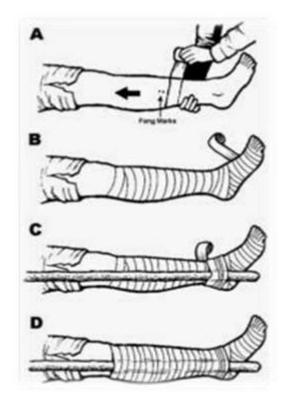






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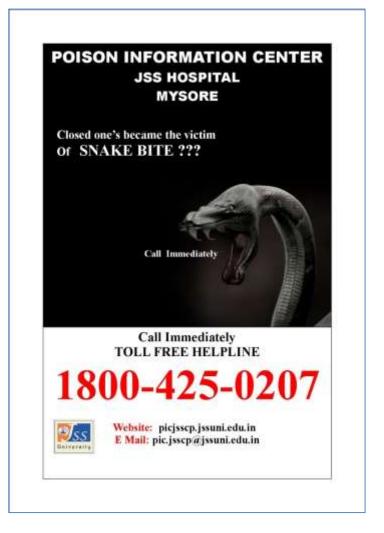
- Clean the bite site with soap and water or antiseptic and wipe before administering any other snake bite first aid.
- Wrap bite area tightly with ace bandage. Start below the bite and work your way up, do <u>NOT</u> wrap too tight, restricting circulation.
- Maintain gap of two fingers while wrapping the bite area.
- Immobilize or splint, if the bite is on an extremity, to prevent movement. This helps keep the venom from spreading more quickly.
- Remember, just because you are bitten doesn't mean you are going to die. Venomous snake bites can be fatal, but often they are not. Avoid previously used snake bite kits, such as those containing razor blades and suction bulbs.
- One MUST remain calm until help arrives





#### PREVENTIONS

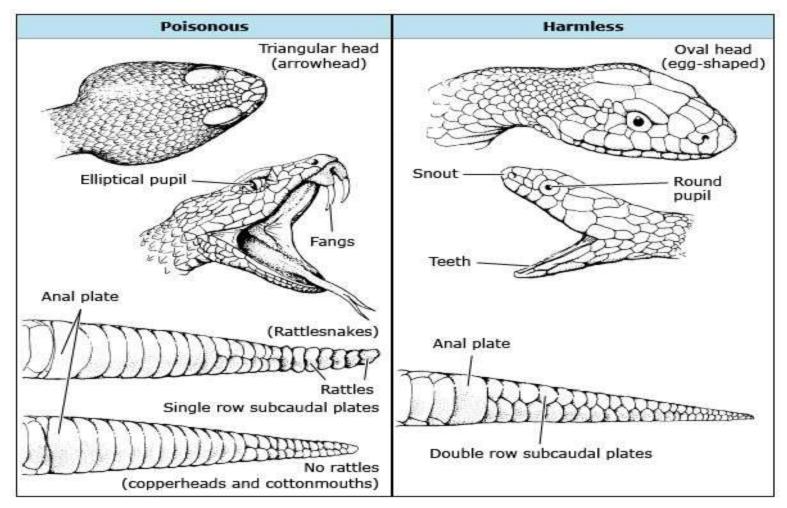
- Avoid areas where snakes may be hiding, such as under rocks and logs.
- Although most snakes are not poisonous, refrain from picking up or playing with them.
- If you walk often, consider buying a kit to treat snakebite (available at camping stores).
- Probe by with a cane where it will happen before entering an area where they cannot see your feet; Snakes will try to avoid it if given enough warning.
- When working in an area known to have snakes, wear long pants and boots if possible.



#### DO NOT

- DO NOT apply a tourniquet.
- DO NOT apply cold compresses to the site of the bite.
- DO NOT cut the bite area with a knife or a razor blade.
- DO NOT try to suck the venom by mouth.
- DO NOT give stimulants or pain medications to the person, unless the doctor tells you.
- DO NOT give the person anything by mouth.
- DO NOT raise the site of the bite above the level of the heart of the person.

### How to Differentiate Venomous and Non-Venomous snakes



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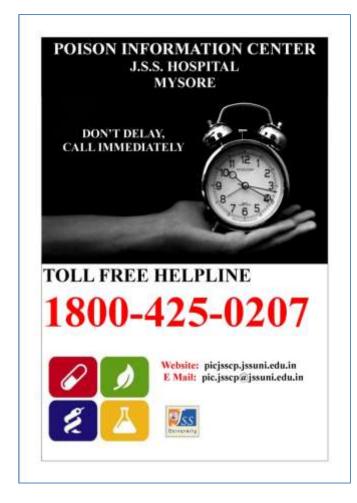
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### If you think that your close ones are poisoned

- Stay calm but act quickly.
- Take the poison away from the victim.
- If the poison was eaten, make the victim spit it out, run your fingers around their mouth and flick out any remaining pieces.
- Never make the victim vomit.
- If a chemical has splashed into the eyes, wash the eyes with tap water for 15 minutes.
- Wash the skin that was in contact with the poison with soap and water.
- Call the Poisons Information Centre 1800-425-0207
- Always take the product container with you to the telephone or to the doctor or nearest hospital

### What we need to know when you call us?

- What was taken?
- How much was taken?
- What is the age and occupation of the victim?
- Does the victim have symptoms?
- Does the victim have an existing medical problem?
- What time did the poisoning occur?
- Is there information on the container?
- What is the product used for?



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