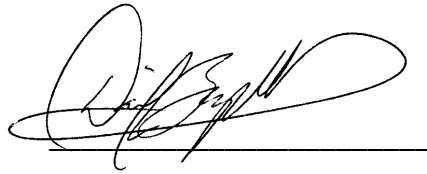


EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

Effective: January 1, 2017



EMS Agency Medical Director

BLS Bites- Snake

INFORMATION NEEDED:

- Type of snake or appearance:
 - Shape of pupil or head, color, stripes or rattle
- Time and type of bite:
 - Fang puncture or row of teeth marks
- Prior first aid by patient or bystanders

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

- Mild or Non-Envenomation-
 - No discoloration around puncture marks, minor pain or no pain after a few minutes
- Serious Envenomation-
 - Dark discoloration around punctures, swelling at or around puncture site, sever pain, altered mental status, abnormal motor function, hypotension, tachycardia, “metallic” taste, active bleeding from site, possible blistering.

TREATMENT:

1. Ensure personal safety – ensure ALS response
2. ABC's
3. Remove rings, watches, and other jewelry which might constrict circulation
4. DO NOT APPLY ICE
5. Routine medical care

Serious Envenomation

6. Avoid movement of the extremity (splint) and keep at or below level of the heart
7. Oxygen 10-15L/min via non-rebreather Mask. If respirations are ineffective support ventilations with BVM with appropriate adjunct.
8. Circle welling around puncture site with pen and note time.
9. Monitor distal pulses

10. Apply loose constricting band (not tourniquet) on extremity above swelling.

NOTE:

1. Do not incise snake bites
2. All patients need to be transported to a hospital for evaluation and possible antibiotic or antivenin therapy.
3. If dead or captured have animal control take care of the snake for identification
4. If patient does not exhibit signs and symptoms of envenomation within 30 minutes of being bitten the probability of having received venom through snake bite decreases.