

OBJECTIVES OF LEARNING ABOUT SNAKEBITE

1. Know how to avoid snakebite.
2. Know what makes snakebite a subject that is familiar to relatively few.
3. Know how fear has the potential to affect the physical well-being of the snakebite victim.
4. Know how the onset of symptoms may assist the clinician to differentiate between a fear or non-fear etiology.
5. Know what symptoms could exist due to fear and non-fear.
6. Know the signs and symptoms of pit viper envenomation.
7. Know the first line of defense following envenomation by a pit viper.
8. Know the potentially life-threatening aspect of local tissue involvement.
9. Know the neurological symptom that is unique to the diamondback rattlesnake.
10. Know approximately how long one would expect swelling to take to resolve, assuming early and adequate amounts of antivenom.
11. Know the sequence of events that allows the pit viper to kill its prey.
12. Know how pit viper venom affects blood vessels, and what life-threatening effect may occur as a result.
13. Know what the two guiding principles of pit viper snakebite treatment are.
14. Know the reason for swelling in pit viper envenomation.
15. Know the etiology of transient hypotension in pit viper envenomation.
16. Know the etiology of persistent hypotension in pit viper envenomation.
17. Know what organ is frequently affected early in pit viper envenomation, and what must be done to protect it.
18. Know the two primary reasons to maintain a foley in pit viper envenomation.
19. Know how pit viper envenomation can lead to a hypovolemic shock state.
20. Know the two areas where pooling of blood is most likely to lead to the development of rapid hypovolemic shock or death.
21. Know the two measurable clotting components that are often affected by pit viper envenomation, both of which are required to form a clot.
22. Know the meaning of a positive FDP.