

	Department Name Address	ALS	Paramedic
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	2.1.32 Snake Bites	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

General Information:

Pit Vipers (the most common likely to be encountered in North Dakota): especially rattlesnake, (but also include water moccasin, and copperhead) typically cause puncture wounds. There may be ecchymosis at site, localized pain, swelling, weakness, tachycardia, nausea, shortness of breath, dim vision, vomiting, or shock.

Kill the snake, if practical, and bring the dead snake to the emergency department (or identify). Do not mutilate the snake's head.

1. Baseline Care Standards.
2. Airway management per protocol.
3. If bite on extremity, immobilize affected extremity in dependent position. Patient should remain still. Place 1" wide venous constricting band proximal to bite. Check for arterial pulses before and after application. If no pulse, loosen band until pulse returns.
4. Remove watches, rings, and jewelry from affected extremity.
5. If signs of toxicity (local edema and hypotension):
 - Increase oxygen delivery to 100% via non-rebreather mask
 - Start IV lactated Ringer's or Normal Saline at 150 ml/hour (wide open if signs of shock)
6. Contact medical control.
7. Reassure and transport.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

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