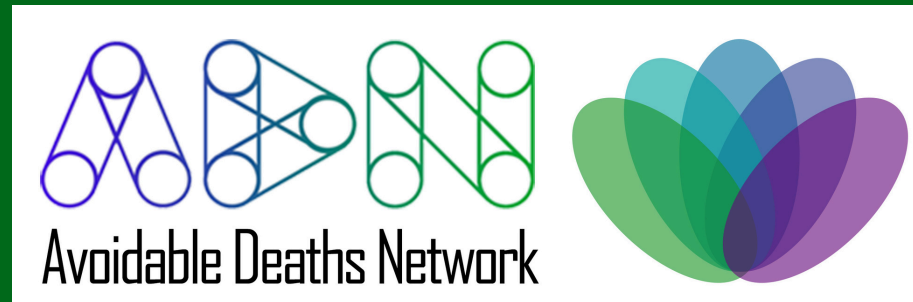


DEBUNKING 6 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SNAKEBITES¹



In case of a snake bite, it is important to wash the affected area immediately.

You must not wash snakebite wounds. It causes more harm than benefit. The washing of wounds with soap and water is recommended only for animal bites including dog bites to kill the virus and remove unabsorbed virus from the wound surface. In the case of snakebite, the venom is injected deep below the skin and there is no chance of washing the venom. Washing the bite area spreads the venom rapidly.



All snakes are poisonous.

Not all snakes are poisonous. In Odisha, there are 310 different types of snakes and out of them about 77 types are poisonous.



Snakebites are high from 6.0 pm to 12.0 am.

This is partly true. Bites are high from 6.0 PM to 12.0 AM, followed by 12.0 PM to 6.0 PM and then 6.0 am to 12.0 PM³. So be careful at night.



Snakebites take place throughout the year.

This is partly true. Most snakebites take place during the monsoon season (June-September)?



Traditional healers can save your life if you are bitten by a snake.

This is partly true. Traditional healers can save your life only if you are bitten by a non-poisonous snake. If you are bitten by a poisonous snake, you need immediate anti-snakebite venom from a hospital without delay.



Only agricultural workers are at risk of being bitten by snakes.

This is partly true. Young children, women, men and domestic animals can also be at risk of snakebites at night or early in the morning.



Children, in particular, are a high-risk group to encounter snakes outdoors, around homes, in village gardens and bushland because of their innate curiosity. Snakebites in children have a higher potential of harm due to their lower body weight relative to the same amount of venom injected into an adult.

¹The poster content is developed by Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett in consultation with three technical experts Dr Amarendra Mohapatra (ICMR- RMRC), Dr Stephen Samuel (Ophirex Inc.) and Dr Dayal Bandhu Majumdar (Calcutta National Medical College). The poster is designed by Ms Darshanika Dinushi Arambegedara and Master Arkoneil Ghosh.

²Suraweera, W. Warrell, D. Whitaker, R. Menon, G. Rodrigues, R. Fu, S.H. Begum, R. Sati, P. Piyasena, K. Bhatia, M. Brown, P. Jha, P. (2020) 'Trends in snakebite deaths in India from 2000 to 2019 in a nationally representative mortality study', eLife, 9, e54076. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7340498/pdf/elif-54076.pdf>

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