GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SNAKEBITE Cvtotoxic Neurotoxic Mixed cytotoxic and neurotoxic Haemotoxic Puff adder, Gaboon adder, spiting cobras Black and green mamba, Rinkhals, berg adder, Peringuey's adder, Boomslang, vine snake Snake (Mozambique, black-necked, black, zebra), non-spitting cobras (snouted, desert mountain adder, garter snakes, (eastern and savanna) Stiletto snakes (Bibron's and Congo). species Cape, forest, Anchieta's) shield-nose snake night adders, horned and many horned adders, lowland swamp viper Dominant Painful progressive swelling (PPS) Progressive weakness (PW) clinical Bleeding may occur in puff adder bites Combined PPS and PW. Bleeding (B) PPS occurs in non-spitting cobra bites (thrombocytopenia) and Gaboon adder bites presentation (consumption coagulopathy). of victim * Suction or nil. Non-spitting cobras: pressure immobilisation or arterial tourniquet. Mambas: arterial tourniquet. Polyvalent antivenom * Suction or nil. * Suction or nil. * Suction or nil. First aid for the triad of perioral paraesthesia, excessive salivation or metallic taste and sweating OR difficulty in breathing. Artificial restpiration may be necessary. Take the patient to hospital or nearest medical help Intravenous fluids Supportive Oxygen by mask or ventilation. Blood or blood component Elevate bitten limb ** See cytotoxic and neurotoxic Protect the airway. treatment therapy Analgesia Antivenom may Puff adder, spitting cobras, be necessary for Rinkhals Bloomslang All species Gaboon adder threat to limb or life * Polyvalent Polyvalent Boomslang monospecific Polyvalent Antivenom type 80 ml (40-200 ml) Suggested dose by 50 ml: puff adder and spitting cobras 50 ml 10-20 ml Small doses may lead to a recurrence 200 ml: Gaboon viper intravenous injection

of symptoms

50-70%

< 10%

80-100%

Percentage bites antivenom

indicated in

< 10%

^{*} Suction is of minimal benefit but reassuring to the patient.

^{**} Some authors prefer keeping the bitten limb at heart level.

^{***} Polyvalent antivenom is effective against the bites of the mambas, cobras, rinkhals, puff adder and Gaboon adder only. A test dose of antivenom is not indicated.