

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS



EMS Agency Medical Director

Effective: July 29, 2013

Reviewed: July 2016

Revised: N/A

Scope: BLS/ALS –Adult/Pediatric

SNAKEBITE

ADULT/PEDIATRIC

BLS TREATMENT

ABCs / ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE - administer oxygen at appropriate flow rate. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts.

CIRCLE SWELLING - if any, around bite mark(s) with a pen and note time. Measure the circumference of the extremity proximal to the bite and note time. This measurement is used as a baseline for determining the progress of swelling.

AVOID MOVEMENT - of the affected extremity; keep the extremity in the neutral position.

PROTOCOL PROCEDURE: *Flow of protocol presumes that the patient's condition is continuing and that the bite was from a native pit viper (rattlesnake). If bite is from an exotic/non-native reptile, immediately contact base station to determine destination and treatment options. If patient is in severe distress, immediate, rapid transport is preferred with treatment performed en route.*

ALS TREATMENT

MONITOR CARDIAC RHYTHM – Refer to appropriate cardiovascular protocol.

NORMAL SALINE - Establish IV/IO, set rate as per patient's condition.

CONSIDER PAIN MANAGEMENT – Refer to Formulary for hemodynamically stable patients who are in severe pain.

CONTACT BASE STATION - Advise base hospital of snakebite and confirm receiving hospital has appropriate supply of antivenin.