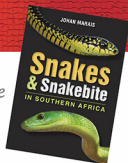




SNAKEBITE PROFILE

ANCHIETA'S COBRA

Naja anchietae



Risk Of Bites

Bites are not common, although this snake may be frequently found around human dwellings. It is also known to raid poultry runs. Dogs are at risk and often get bitten when attempting to kill the snake.

Most Bites

Bites are infrequent and usually occur when accidentally confronted or stepped on at night. Most bites are on the lower legs, or to those who try and handle the snake.

Symptoms & Venom

The venom is both neurotoxic and cytotoxic. It is one of our largest cobras reaching 2.5m in length and it can deliver large volumes of venom in a single bite. Bites may result in burning pain, nausea and swelling followed by tissue damage. It can also result in progressive weakness and affect breathing.

See pages 52-53
– *Snakes and Snakebite
in Southern Africa*
(2024).

First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down in a rescue position. Immediately arrange transport to a hospital with emergency facilities. If far from a hospital, apply a pressure bandage (Page 19 of *Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa*). Resort to artificial respiration if the victim stops breathing.

Medical Treatment

In cases of severe envenomation, especially where patients are not breathing, they should be intubated, ventilated and treated with 12-15 vials of SAVP Polyvalent antivenom. Additional vials of antivenom may be required at a later stage.

