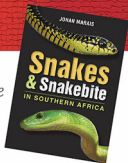




# SNAKEBITE PROFILE

## ZEBRA COBRA

*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*



### Risk of Bites

The Zebra Cobra is common throughout its range and bites to humans occur quite frequently. Like the Mozambique Spitting Cobra, this snake often enters human dwellings where people are bitten while asleep in their beds.



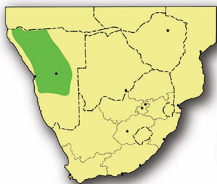
### Most Bites

This snake is often accidentally stepped on at night. It may also bite people when it enters dwellings. Therefore, exit doors should be well sealed and people should sleep under mosquito nets to avoid bites.



### Symptoms & Venom

The venom is predominantly and potentially cytotoxic. Symptoms include severe pain, progressive swelling and tissue damage.



See pages 62-63

– *Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa* (2024).



### First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient. Elevate the affected limb. Remove tight clothing and jewelry. Promptly transport the victim to the nearest hospital that has emergency facilities. Avoid all other first aid remedies including bandages. For venom in the eyes, wash the eyes out immediately using water or any other bland liquid and consult a medical doctor.



### Medical Treatment

In cases of severe envenomation with progressive swelling extending over 10-15 cm per hour from the bite, doctors administer 12 or more ampoules of polyvalent antivenom. Although, recent research indicates that SAVP polyvalent antivenom is not very effective against this venom. Short-term use of NSAIDs and antibiotics is not recommended. Fasciotomies are rarely justified and should generally be avoided. Surgery for tissue damage may be necessary, however, it is seldom required within the first few days.

