

ESWATINI'S SPITTING SNAKES



IDENTIFICATION FEATURES	IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS	FIRST-AID
<p>The Mozambique Spitting Cobra (Mfeti) and the Rinkhals (Phemphetfwane) are Swaziland's only two snakes that can spit or spray their venom.</p> <p>Although both spit their venom, they will both not hesitate to bite if they feel threatened or are hurt.</p> <p>Spitting snakes can "spray" their venom up to a distance of 2.5m or twice the length of their body.</p>	<p>The effect is instant.</p> <p><i>The following symptoms may be apparent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe burning pain, much like soap but much more intense and persistent. • Red eyes that will be tearing profusely. • Severe pain • Blurry vision • Swelling of the eye lid and surrounding tissue. • Possible conjunctivitis (inflammation) of the eyes <div> </div> <p>Red, inflamed eye caused by the venom of aMfeti</p>	<p>Venom in the eyes or mouth is NOT life threatening and NO antivenom is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do NOT rub your eyes. • Wash the eyes with a lot of cool water as soon as possible for up to 20 minutes. Anything that will not harm the eyes can also be used. If water is not available use anything like beer, minerals, tea and even urine. It is NOT true that milk is the best treatment. In fact, milk is not a good option at all!! • Then rinse the mouth, wash the whole face and any other exposed body parts. • Mop the eyes softly in an outward direction. • Blow the nose carefully. • Venom in the eyes is very painful and alarming, so be calm and firm when dealing with the patient. <p>Once the eyes have been washed, the patient must go to a doctor to have the eyes checked for damage.</p>

