

**TREATMENT OF NAJA NAJA (KING COBRA) SNAKEBITES IN TRIBAL AREAS OF  
ADILABAD DISTRICT BY HAKIM**

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**ABSTRACT**

*A direct interview was conducted and collected the information from the Naja Naja snake bitten victims and the curing processes by the Hakim of Adilabad forest. The victim of snakebite mainly depend on Hakim that is traditional healers, for the treatment, may be due to the government health centers are not within the reach and lack of transport. Different snakebites have different symptoms and their treatments also varie. The tribal people prefer traditional herbal plants for the treatment rather than the allopathy medicine. The cure for the snakebite is 100% without any side effects. The different snakes bites have different symptoms, different treatment and different dosages of medicine.*

**Keywords:** Naja Naja snakebite treatment, Herbal plant, Hakim.

**Introduction:**

Ethnobotanical studies were carried out in Adilabad forest which is dominated by tribal people. Mubeen, et al 2005<sup>1</sup>.have studied the medicinally important plants of Adilabad district. Ravishankar T., and A.N.Henry1992,<sup>2</sup> Pullaiah.T et al 1992<sup>3</sup> and Madhu. V.and C.Suvartha 2009<sup>4</sup> have published on the medicinal plants of Adilabad district. The tribal people of Adilabad are Erukalas, Gonds, Koyas, and Banjaras. In our study importance was given for the Naja Naja snakebite, as they are common in forest dwellers. The symptoms and specific treatment for different snakebites varies. The authors have experienced and involved in the usage of medicinal plants, their dosage and quantity from the local Hakim (traditional healer). Herbal compounds neutralize the snake venom Sainkhediya Jeetendra and Aske Dilip Kumar 2012<sup>5</sup> have studied the Ethno medicinal plants for the treatment of snakebite in West Nimar, MP,India. Thirumalai. T et al 2010<sup>6</sup>A survey was made on Ethnobotanical plants for snakebites in Vellore District. Antony Gomes et al 2010<sup>7</sup>Studied the herbs against snake bite from Kolkata.

**Study Area:**

Adilabad forest occupies about 7219 sq.km, the total population of tribal are 4,17,000 (approximately) the main occupation of the district people is agriculture, the tribal people are permitted to collect, utilize and to market the forest by products by the Government of India. As the tribal people go for the collection of plant byproducts of the forest unknowingly or accidentally they are prone for snakebites.

**Material and Methods:**

The present study was carried out recently. The authors contacted the snake bite victims directly and recorded the symptoms, photographed the persons, herbal plants, their dosage and period of time taken by the Hakim for the treatment of the snake bitten victim.

**Symptoms of the snake bitten patient:**

A tribal man, aged around 24 years, who went to cut the Bamboo in the forest was bitten by a deadly poisonous the Naja Naja snake(king cobra) at the left side of the left foot. Immediately after the snake bite the man could not realize the effect, until 15minutes time the man started feeling giddiness and pain in the leg. after 5 minutes that is of total 20minutes later, the man started oozing saliva from the mouth in the form of froth. The bitten part of the leg will not function normally as usual, the person is with severe pain and in confused state and also he was closing his eyes. The leg became numb that is the victim lost the sense of touch. The forest tribal people brought the victim to the hakim by cot (Photo1) where the patients treatment was started, and also broken tooth of Naja Naja collected from the bitten part (photo2).

**Results and Discussions:**

The first scientific investigation of the herbal antidotes for the snakebite was carried out by Knowles.R 1921<sup>8</sup> screening several plants, which are used by the local healers. In our study we have focused mainly on the herbal plants used by local traditional healer that is Hakim, observed the symptoms of the snake bitten patient and administered the plant medicine. The snake is identified as the Naja Naja. The symptoms are there is no oozing out of blood from the bitten

part and there is no swelling in the leg unlike in Russell Viper. The bitten person was treated within an hour. Here the patient was brought by cot to the local Hakim for the treatment. He washed the bitten part with water. The roots of *Achyranthus aspera*. L, *Abrus precatorius* .L and *Cardiospermum helicacabum*. L. were collected and made in to paste and applied in the eyes of the victim, it gives burning sensation to the eyes, so that the person will not go unconscious nor will go for sleep. This treatment carried out at every 5 minutes gap so that the process will help in accelerating the medicinal power. The roots of *Withania somnifera* grind (approximately 20gm) to powder, to this added 20 ml of water mix thoroughly and it was administered orally to the patient, by reciting mantras ( the secret mantras were not revealed by hakim, it may be the synonyms of goddess of snakes) . This process is a continuous for 20 min time without any gap. Due to this process the effect of poison of the Naja Naja snake will be neutralized. This helped the patient to recover immediately. The pain is reduced and there is no symptom of giddiness in the patient. The whole process or treatment completed within 30 minutes. The patient can have normal diet and can lead normal life. The healed part of the leg is shown in photo3.

#### **Conclusion:**

It is observed that the hakim or the local healer is doing a commendable job by using the forest herbs in treating the poor tribal people free of cost. We think it is the gods gift for the local people who could not effort to offer heavily for the treatment. The authors are with the hakim and the patient throughout the treatment period. The hakim commands good respect and he is treated as a Nobel person not only by the tribal people but also by the nearby villagers. Our responsibility is to conserve and to protect the forest for the forest wealth and particularly the medicinal plants.

#### **Acknowledgement:**

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**Photo1. Patient with Hakim and Author  
tooth of Naja Naja**



**Photo2: showing the broken venomous  
tooth of Naja Naja**



**Photo 3. Healed part of the leg showing the snake bitten scars.**