



Figure 37 : Squamous cell carcinoma developing at the site of a chronic skin ulcer with osteomyelitis 8 years after a bite by a Malayan pit viper. (Copyright DA Warrell)

Chronic renal failure occurs after bilateral cortical necrosis (Russell's viper bites) and chronic panhypopituitarism or diabetes insipidus after Russell's viper bites in Myanmar and South India (Fig 35). Chronic neurological deficit is seen in the few patients who survive intracranial haemorrhages (Viperidae).

4. Symptoms and signs of cobra-spit ophthalmia (eye injuries from spitting cobras) (Fig 38)

If the “spat” venom enters the eyes, there is immediate and persistent intense burning, stinging pain, followed by profuse watering of the eyes with production of whitish discharge, congested conjunctivae, spasm and swelling of the eyelids, photophobia and clouding of vision. Corneal ulceration, permanent corneal scarring and secondary endophthalmitis are recognised complications of African spitting cobra venom but have not been described in Asia.

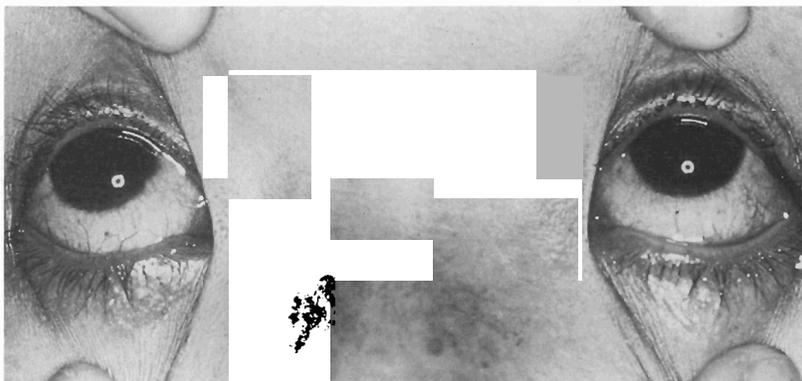


Figure 38 : Bilateral conjunctivitis in a patient who had venom spat into both eyes by an Indo-Chinese spitting cobra (*Naja siamensis*). (Copyright DA Warrell)