

Leeches

Leeches are found all over the world. They live in freshwater. They feed on blood. They bite living things. They suck out the blood. They have special spit. Their spit increases blood flow. It prevents **clotting**. Clotting is the stopping of blood flow. Victims can bleed for hours. This lets new blood enter the wound area. Veins regrow. Veins regain flow.

Sometimes, leeches cause problems. They slip off. They attach to unwanted places. They also fall off when done eating. They become **engorged** with blood. Engorged means swollen. Their victims can suffer from blood loss.



Doctors have used leeches for a long time.