The Prince Charles Hospital

Emergency Department

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINE for THE MANAGEMENT of THE SYSTEMICALLY ENVENOMED PATIENT

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All severe cases must be seen by consultant. See Snakebite pathway for all other patients

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**Patient should be moved to RESUS**

- **Phone** 131126
- **Phone ED Consultant**
- **Phone ICU**

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**Patient is systemically envenomed**

Ie. Has collapse/unconscious, neurotoxicity, coagulopathy, myolysis,

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**First Aid**

- Ensure patient has correctly applied PBI
- Leave in place during initial resuscitation

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**Treatment**

- **Attend to ABCs** but beware of bleeding
- **Insert IV Line and Fluid Load N.Saline**
- **Order Tests†**
- **Perform bite site VDK** (or Urine)
- **Commence IV Antivenon** after discussion with ED Consultant or PIC re: polyvalent, monovalent or combination of monovalent
- **Determination based on** local geography, clinical syndrome and VDK result
- **Dilution** 1:10 or 1:5 for young children, slow iv infusion over 15 minutes
- **Watch for anaphylaxis** (incidence 25%, severe in 5%)
- **Monitor u/o** – will need catheter
- **Remove PIB after Antivenom**

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**Clinical Examination**

**Neurotoxicity**

- Distal Paralysis
- Ptosis
- Bulbar Palsy

Which occur prior to

- Diaphragmatic weakness

**Bleeding**

- Bite, IV Site, gums, beware headache or abdo pain.

**Myotoxicity**

- Muscle Pain
- Weakness

1 Vial of Snake Antivenom is the recommended dose from both Adults and Children

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**Patient to ICU after iv antivenom**

- Monitor closely
- General supportive measures
- Investigations repeated @ 6, 12 & 24 hrs
- Further antivenom only after discussion with toxinologist
- Neurotoxicity, myotoxicity or thrombotic microangiography may require ICU advice.

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When patient d/c, please give advise sheet and warn to watch for serum sickness. 4 – 14 days later.

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**TESTS**

- FBC with blood film looking for RBC fragmentation
- ULFTs, CK, LDH
- Coags (INR, PT, APTT)
- Fibringen
- D-Dimer
- G&H

Timing….

- At admission,
  - before antivenom,
  - 6 & 12 hours after antivenom
  - Every 12-24 hours until discharge