



Snake/Spider bite

Case 1.

A 24 yr old man presents to your Victorian ED after being bitten by a brown coloured snake 1 hour ago. He has a headache and abdominal pain. Ambulance paramedics have applied a pressure immobilisation bandage.

1. What venomous snakes occur in Victoria and what are their clinical effects?
2. Describe the features you would seek on history and examination.
3. What investigations will you do?

His blood results return:

INR > 14 (0.8–1.2)

APTT > 250 (22 – 32) D-dimer 488 (0 – 0.20) Fibrinogen < 0.3 (1.5 – 4.0)

4. Describe your management.
5. When do you remove the PIB?
6. You repeat his bloods 6 hours later and his INR is still >14. Describe your management.
7. Describe the possible adverse effects of anti-venom.

Case 2.

A 19 yr old woman presents to triage. She had been gardening in long grass and thought something bit her. She has a small scratch on her leg that looks like fang marks. She is distressed and complains of dizziness.

1. Describe your initial management and investigations.
2. Your senior registrar suggests to you “if her bloods are normal after 8 hours she can go home”. Is she right?

Case 3.

A 68 yr old man complains of intense forearm pain after stacking firewood in his back yard.

1. What is the likely culprit?
2. Describe your management.

Case 4.

A 45 yr old woman presents following a bite on her leg from a white-tail spider. She has collected the spider in a jar. She is worried about developing severe necrotic ulceration. What do you tell her?