Management of Snakebite Envenomation in Victoria

This guideline applies to defined snake bites from venomous snakes found in Victoria (Brown, Tiger and Red-Bellied Black snakes)

Toxicity / Risk Assessment

- Patients with no bite mark or no symptoms may be envenomed.
- All SUSPECTED snake bite victims require admission for lab

investigations/neuro exam until a time point at least 12-hours post-bite.

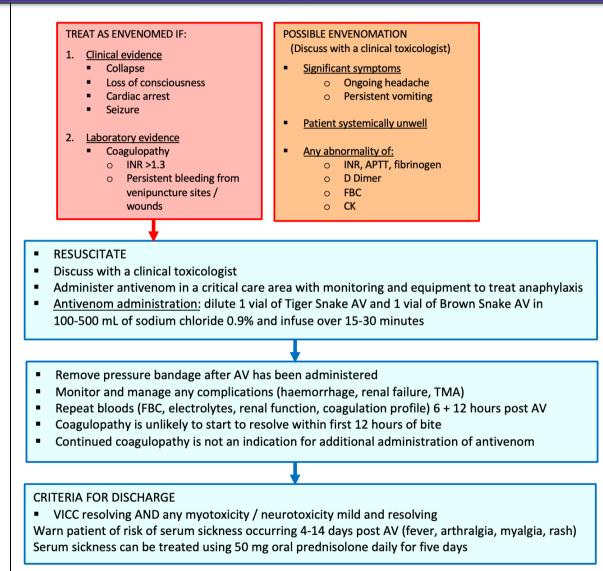
Snakes causing human envenoming in Victoria: Tiger snake, Brown snake,

Red-Bellied black snake.

<u>Clinical features of envenoming:</u>

- Patients may be envenomed, but remain asymptomatic
- Early collapse (Brown snake), cardiac arrest
- None-specific: headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- **Neurotoxicity**: ptosis, diplopia/ophthalmoplegia, respiratory or distal limb paralysis, seizures
- **Coagulopathy**: bleeding from bite site, venipuncture, gums, epistaxis, ICH
- a) Venom Induced Consumptive Coagulopathy (VICC): INR > 1.3,
 - \downarrow fibrinogen, elevated d-dimer
- b) Anticoagulant coagulopathy (Black snake): raised APTT
- **TMA (thrombotic microangiopathy)**: renal impairment, ↓ Hb, ↓ platelet
- **Musculoskeletal:** local pain (Black snake), rhabdomyolysis, myoglobinuria
- (can be delayed)

AUSTIN CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY SERVICE GUIDELINE



POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE: 13 11 26

Austin