

Snake Antivenom Therapy

Indications

1. Serious local toxicity e.g. gross swelling, blistering, gangrene, injury of blood vessels, nerves or tendons
2. Serious hematological toxicity
3. Established or anticipated neurological toxicity
4. Other major organ toxicity

Expected benefits

1. Stop or slow the progress of local & neurological toxicity
2. Improve the hematological toxicity

Side effects

1. Allergic reactions happen in a minority of patients.
2. Early reactions are usually skin itching & rash, but could be difficulty in breathing, low blood pressure & death.
3. Reactions may present several days later with fever, skin rash & joint pain.
4. Medical staff will adopt measures to minimize the risks. The above side effects generally respond well to treatment.

Notes

Medical staff will assess the indications & then suggest antivenom therapy if the expected benefits outweigh the expected side effects. Supplementary information other than that in the factsheet may be given depending on individual's medical status. For queries, please contact the medical staff.