

**This guideline applies only to witnessed or suspected 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.

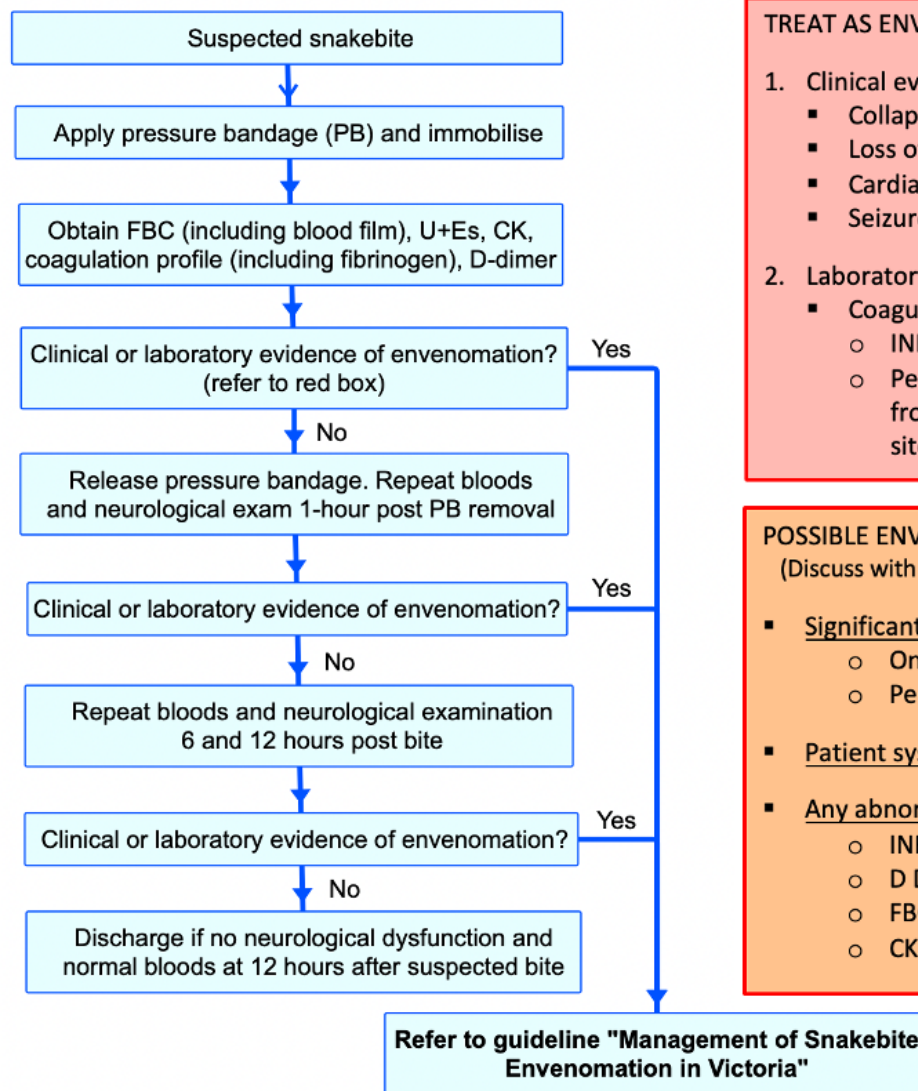
All SUSPECTED snake bite victims require admission for lab

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.

### Clinical features of envenoming:

- Patients may be envenomed, but remain asymptomatic
- Early collapse, cardiac arrest (Brown Snake)
- **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,
    - ↓ 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)



**TREAT AS ENVENOMED IF:**

1. Clinical evidence
  - Collapse
  - Loss of consciousness
  - Cardiac arrest
  - Seizure
2. Laboratory evidence
  - Coagulopathy
    - INR >1.3
    - Persistent bleeding from venipuncture sites / wounds

**POSSIBLE ENVENOMATION**  
(Discuss with a clinical toxicologist)

- Significant symptoms
  - Ongoing headache
  - Persistent vomiting
- Patient systemically unwell
- Any abnormality of:
  - INR, APTT, fibrinogen
  - D Dimer
  - FBC
  - CK