

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)
- **Non-specific:** headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- **Neurotoxicity** (typically a descending paralysis): 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, ↓ platelets
- **Musculoskeletal:** local pain (Black snake), rhabdomyolysis, myoglobinuria (can be delayed)

