

OSCE

Candidate information

Your intern has recently managed a patient with a suspected snake bite. They have several questions regarding this patient.

The patient was a 45 year old snake-charmer who thought one of his costal taipans had bitten him. The patient immediately drove from Nurioopta, three hours away, to FMC, as the nRAH was ramping.

The intern was surprised the duty consultant did not give antivenom to the patient and was wondering if it was due to the risk of anaphylaxis. Please answer the intern's questions regarding snakebite management.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	40
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	
Scholarship and teaching	60
Professionalism	

Snake antivenom discussion

Actor (intern) information

You are an intern recently involved in a snake bite case. The patient was a 45 year old snake-charmer who thought one of his costal taipans had bitten him. The patient immediately drove from Nurioopta, three hours away, to FMC, as the nRAH was ramping.

You were surprised the duty consultant did not give antivenom to the patient and were wondering if it was due to the risk of anaphylaxis. You have several questions for the consultant regarding snake bite management.

Prompts:

- What are the pros and cons of antivenom?
- Is there any evidence that snake handlers have an increased risk of reaction/anaphylaxis to antivenom? (**NO**)
- Why do you think the consultant didn't give antivenom?

Marking:

- Pros:
 - potentially life-saving – may reverse paralysis, may work for MAHA
 - No strong evidence that snake handlers have increased reaction risk/anaphylaxis
- Cons:
 - Allergic/anaphylaxis reaction (risk: 1% monovalent, 5% polyvalent)
 - Serum sickness may occur; steroid may help this, but usually self-limited
 - Some evidence many don't work (Brown snake does!)
 - May not affect coagulopathy except in high doses.

This patient presented >2.5 hours post bite, and presumably had no symptoms. Unlikely to be envenomated, so not given antivenom

	Mark
Clear explanation of pros and cons of antivenom	2
Explains risk of anaphylaxis to antivenom	2
Discusses reasons antivenom not given in this case	1
Discusses risk in snake handlers	1
Explains effect of antivenom on Snakebite symptoms/signs	2
Approach to teaching intern	1
Offers appropriate resources on snakebite management	1