

## Clinical Pathway for Non-Envenomed Snake Bite

### Patient Arrival

- Suspected/definite snake bite occurred at \_\_\_\_\_ hrs
- Pressure bandage in situ, if not, and within 4hrs of bite, apply pressure bandage and immobilise patient
- If any systemic symptoms are present (headache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, collapse), evidence of bleeding, or neurotoxicity (ptosis, extraocular muscle palsy, bulbar palsy, descending paralysis), exit pathway and call Poisons Information **13 11 26**
- Take pathology on admission (Coagulation studies, D-dimer\*, FBC, Chem20, CK)

### Once pathology results available

- Review pathology results and repeat neurological examination
- If all normal, and no signs of neurotoxicity, can remove PBI
- If any evidence of neurotoxicity, or bloods abnormal (elevated INR, aPTT, or D-dimer\*), exit pathway and call Poisons Information **13 11 26**

### 1hr Post PBI Removal

- Repeat bloods and neurological examination **1hr POST PBI REMOVAL**
- Coagulation studies, D-dimer\*, and CK
- If any evidence of neurotoxicity, or bloods abnormal (elevated INR, aPTT, or D-dimer\*), exit pathway and call Poisons Information **13 11 26**

### 6hrs Post Bite

- Repeat bloods and neurological examination **6hrs POST BITE**
- Coagulation studies, and CK
- If any evidence of neurotoxicity, or bloods abnormal (elevated INR, aPTT, or CK), exit pathway and call Poisons Information **13 11 26**

### 12hrs Post Bite

- Repeat bloods and neurological examination **12hrs POST BITE**
- Coagulation studies and CK
- If any evidence of neurotoxicity, or bloods abnormal (elevated INR, aPTT, or CK), exit pathway and call Poisons Information **13 11 26**

### Discharge

- If bloods remain within normal limits, and there is no evidence of neurotoxicity, the patient can be discharged in daylight hours
- Consider tetanus prophylaxis

\*D-dimer >2.5mg/L between 2-6hrs post snake bite has a 98% sensitivity and 96% specificity for detecting VICC (Venom-Induced Consumption Coagulopathy), Isbister et al (ASP 29).

