

The Vengeance of the Venom ; Delayed Envenomation of Malayan Pit Viper Bite

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Introduction

The **Malayan Pit Viper** (*Calloselasma rhodostoma*) is a hematotoxic snake which typically causes local tissue injury, including severe pain, swelling, ecchymosis and in some cases, systemic coagulopathy. Managing such cases becomes clinically challenging, when there is a **delayed onset of systemic effects**

Case Description

This report describes a case of a 41 years old gentleman presented to the emergency department (ED) in a rural area of Kedah with symptomatic anemia secondary to **systemic coagulopathy**. He had initially been admitted after receiving three vials of **Calloselasma rhodostoma antivenom** (CRAV). He was later transferred to tertiary hospital for **fasciotomy** due to **compartment syndrome**. Postoperatively, he remained stable and was discharged with instructions for daily wound dressing.

A **few days later** he returned to the ED department with a **presyncopal attack**. This event occurred **six days** post Malayan Pit Viper bite and five days post-fasciotomy. The ED team successfully **reversed the effects** after administering **three vials of CRAV**. The patient was subsequently admitted to ward for blood transfusion and further observation

Reference

- 1.MOH. Malaysia. Guideline: Management of snakebites. 2017
- 2.WHO. Guideline management of snakebites. 2nd ed. 2016
- 3.Lavonas EJ, et al.. Medically significant late bleeding after treated crotaline envenomation: a systematic review. Ann Emerg Med. 2014

Discussion

This case highlights the potential of **delayed envenomation** following Malayan Pit Viper bite. **Surgical intervention** to the tissue may have **disrupted the venom's diffusion process**, delaying its systemic effects.

Conclusion

This case of delayed envenomation highlights the critical need for **prolonged patient monitoring** to prevent severe complications and potential fatality.

Keywords: *Calloselasma rhodostoma*, delayed envenomation, coagulopathy, antivenom.



Image 1: A photo taken during the first presentation to ED on February 27, 2025



Image 2 & 3: Photos taken during second presentation to ED on Mac 5, 2025

