



ASYMPTOMATIC ALGORITHM

Asymptomatic Snakebite - Assessment & Disposition Pathway



If new or worsening signs of envenomation, switch to appropriate



ALGORITHM or



or



ALGORITHM until control restored.

COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Call DOD ADVISOR (+1-833-238-7756) ASAP.

Request toxicology consult for symptomatic snakebite.

MEDEVAC not indicated for asymptomatic dry bites.

ABCs: Assess for Crash Signs

Remove rings, watches, shoes, etc. IV/IO access (non-bitten limb)



RAPID SNAKEBITE EXAM

ASYMPTOMATIC

Patient without S/Sx of NEURO, HEMO/CYTO, or systemic instability

Hour 0



Reassess every 30 minutes

Hour 2



Stepwise Removal

H₀

H_{0.5}

H₁

H_{1.5}

H₂

Control maintained?

Hour 3



Reassess every 1 hour

Hour 6

H₃

H₄

H₅

H₆

Control maintained?

Asymptomatic patients with suspected dry bites may leave clinic at hour 6 but must stay within 1 hour distance until cleared for return to full duty.

Hour 12



After H₆, patient must return for assessment at hours:

Hour 48

H₁₂

H₂₄

H₄₈

Control maintained?

DISPOSITION: RETURN TO FULL DUTY

NO S/Sx indicating onset or recurrence of envenomation for 48 hours...

OR

Snake ID by expert confirms harmless species at any time AND DoD ADVISOR toxicologist agrees with disposition.



If patient arrives with tourniquet, refer to Tourniquet Algorithm.



CAUTION - SYMPTOMS MAY DEVELOP HOURS AFTER BITE!

In rare cases (typically NEURO), initially asymptomatic patients may suddenly develop severe symptoms that can rapidly progress to respiratory failure. Typical onset is within 6h; in rare cases ~24 hour delay is possible.



RAPID SNAKEBITE EXAM

- 1. NEURO:** Assess top-down from head for ptosis, weakness, descending paralysis, and problems seeing, speaking, swallowing, or breathing.
- 2. HEMO:** Assess bitten limb for persistent local bleeding (oozing), check mouth, nose, other mucosa for systemic bleeding.
- 3. CYTO:** In Sharpie on bitten limb, mark progression + record time
 - Pain (dashed line)
 - Firm Edema (solid line)

TIP: Progression should stop 30–60 min after correct AV dose.



Check off each completed assessment timestamp.



Note on Snake ID: Snake ID is not recommended or required for treatment. However, when evidence is available, expert identification confirming a non-venomous species can permit early return-to-duty prior to Hour 48. Always consult DoD ADVISOR line (+1-833-238-7756) for clearance in these cases.