Venomous Snakes in Kuwait

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Cerastes gasperetti AKA Horned Viper
Cerastes gasperetti

Background

Family: viperidae
Shape: 30-60 cm, large triangular head, horns
Toxin: hemotoxic (procoagulant, hemorrhagins)
Untreated lethality: < 1%
Cerastes gasperettii
Clinical presentation

**Local** edema, ecchymoses
Systemic symptoms
Mild-moderate **coagulopathy**
Cerastes gasperetti
Management

Remove from source
Identify snake (if dead)
Immobilize limb
NO tourniquet, sucking, bleeding, or electricity
Remove distal jewelry
Take to ED, ABC, IV, O2, monitor
Antivenom if severe toxicity
  - Antivenom Code: SAmVCO2
  - Antivenom Name: Polyvalent Snake Antivenom
  - Manufacturer: National Antivenom and Vaccine Production Centre
  - Phone: ++966-1-252-0088
  - Address: P.O. Box 22490
  11426 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Echis sochureki
AKA Saw-scaled Viper
**Echis sochureki**

Background

**Family:** viperidae  
**Shape:** 35 cm, broad head, elliptical pupils, serrated scales  
**Habits:** aggressive, rasping sound  
**Toxin:** hemotoxic (procoagulant, zinc metalloproteinases)  
**Rates:** most common cause of envenomation in the region (> 80%)  
**Untreated lethality:** 1-10%

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Echis sochureki
Clinical presentation

Local edema, ecchymoses, pain, blistering, necrosis
Systemic symptoms
Moderate-severe coagulopathy, hemorrhage
Renal failure
Shock
Echis sochureki

Management

As above

Antivenom for moderate-severe toxicity
– Antivenom Code: SAsRII04
– Antivenom Name: Echis Antivenom
– Manufacturer: Razi Serum & Vaccine Research Institute
– Phone: ++98-21-311-9708
– Address: P.O. Box 31975/148
  Hessarak-Karadj, Iran

– Antivenom Code: SAfAVC02
– Antivenom Name: Polyvalent Snake Antivenom
– Manufacturer: National Antivenom and Vaccine Production Centre
– Phone: ++966-1-252-0088
– Address: P.O. Box 22490
  11426 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Vipera albicornuta

AKA White-horned Viper
Vipera albicornuta

Background

Family: viperidae
Shape: 40 cm, small head, elliptical pupils
Toxin: hemotoxic

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Vipera albicornuta
Clinical presentation

**Local** edema, pain, ecchymoses, necrosis

Systemic symptoms

Coagulopathy/bleeding

Shock
Vipera albicornuta
Management

As above
Antivenom for coagulopathy and/or persistent systemic symptoms
- **Antivenom Code:** SAsRII02
- **Antivenom Name:** Polyvalent Snake Antivenom
- **Manufacturer:** Razi Serum & Vaccine Research Institute
- **Phone:** ++98-21-311-9708
- **Address:** P.O. Box 31975/148
  Hessarak-Karadj, Iran
Walterinnesia aegyptia

AKA Black Desert Cobra
Walterinnesia aegyptia

Background

**Family:** elapidae

**Shape:** 50 cm, small head, small eyes and round pupils, smooth glossy scales

**Habits:** not aggressive, delayed venom injection

**Toxin:** post-synaptic neurotoxin
Walterinnesia aegyptia

Clinical presentation

Local edema, pain

Systemic symptoms

Neurotoxicity

– Flaccid paralysis (cranial nerves > limbs > respiratory)
Walterinnesia aegyptia

Management

As above

Antivenom for neurological signs and/or persistent systemic symptoms

– **Antivenom Code:** SAfAVC02
– **Antivenom Name:** Polyvalent Snake Antivenom
– **Manufacturer:** National Antivenom and Vaccine Production Centre
– **Phone:** ++966-1-252-0088
– **Address:** P.O. Box 22490
  11426 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

– **Antivenom Code:** SAfAVC03
– **Antivenom Name:** Bivalent Naja / Walterinnesia Snake Antivenom
– **Manufacturer:** National Antivenom and Vaccine Production Centre
– **Phone:** ++966-1-252-0088
– **Address:** P.O. Box 22490
  11426 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Also the not-so-toxic...

Malpolon monspessulanus (Montpellier Snake)  

Pseudocerastes persicus (Persian Horned Viper)
References

White J, Dart R. Snakebite: A brief medical guide 2008

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