

toxtidbits

THE MARYLAND POISON CENTER'S MONTHLY UPDATE.
NEWS. ADVANCES. INFORMATION.

CroFab[®]: Important Update

CroFab[®] (crotalidae polyvalent immune FAB) is indicated in the management of patients with envenomation from North American crotaline (pit viper) snakes: rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths. Indications are severe swelling, coagulopathy or hypotension from a snakebite. Early use of CroFab[®] (within 6 hours of the bite) is advised. In 2012, revisions to CroFab[®] administration were made by the manufacturer and the Maryland Poison Center:

1. DILUTION

At the time of administration, each vial of CroFab[®] should be reconstituted with 18 mL of 0.9% saline and mixed by continuous manual inversion until no solid material is visible. DO NOT SHAKE. The entire dose (2- 6 vials) should be further diluted into 250 mL of 0.9% saline. The Maryland Poison Center recommends starting the infusion @ 10 mL/hr, tripling the rate every 3 minutes. Goal rate is 300 mL/hr, which will be reached in less than 12 minutes if there are no adverse effects. Infuse the entire 250 mL.¹

2. LOADING DOSE

The Maryland Poison Center recommends 4 vials as a loading dose for copperhead snakebites (not 6 vials).

3. MAINTENANCE DOSE

Copperhead snakebites with minimal envenomation may not need CroFab[®] beyond the loading dose, especially if close physician monitoring is available. In one series, fewer than one third of patients experienced recurrence after initial control.²

4. NEW GUIDELINE SHEETS

Brand new 2-page guidelines (upper and lower extremity bites) to treating snakebites were developed by the Maryland Poison Center and are available to those managing a snakebite patient.

Call the Maryland Poison Center for help with the management of all snakebites.

Suzanne Doyon, MD
Medical Director
Maryland Poison Center

1. CroFab[®] Crotalidae Polyvalent Immune Fab (Ovine) [package insert]. West Conshohocken, PA: BTG International Inc; March 2012

2. Lavonas EJ, Ruha AM, Banner W, Bebartha V et al. Unified treatment algorithm for the management of crotaline snakebite in the United States: results of an evidence-informed consensus workshop. BMC Emergency Medicine 2011; 11:2. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-227X/11/2>



Did you know?

The copperhead snake is the most commonly encountered crotaline snake in Maryland.

The timber rattlesnake, found mainly in Western MD, is associated with significant thrombocytopenia and coagulopathy along with swelling, pain and ecchymosis. Because of this, larger doses of CroFab[®] are recommended. Call the Maryland Poison Center for more information on the treatment of a timber rattlesnake bite.

Cottonmouth snakes are not found in Maryland.

Lastly, did you know that 20-25% of crotaline snake bites are “dry” and require no CroFab[®] at all?

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