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151. Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*) Bites Reported to the ToxIC North American Snakebite Registry (NASBR)

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Background: The Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*) is a rattlesnake native to the southwestern United States. Bites by this species are uncommon, and few reports of envenomation exist.

Research Question: What clinical course follows bites by the Sidewinder?

Methods: This is a review of Sidewinder bites prospectively reported to the NASBR from January 1, 2013 to July 31, 2023. Beginning in 2017, species identification was qualified as “definite” or “likely” by the treating medical toxicologist based on specific criteria. Hemotoxicity was defined as platelets < 120 K/mm³ or fibrinogen < 150 mg/dL. Variables analyzed included demographics, bite location, clinical manifestations, management, and outcomes. Descriptive statistics were used.

Results: Eleven Sidewinder bites were reported; one was considered ‘dry’. Species identification was ‘definite’ in 6/7 cases reported after 2016. Locations included Arizona (8), Texas (2), and California (1). Age range was 10 – 70 years. Nine (82%) were male. Swelling was reported in nine (82%) cases. Neurotoxicity occurred in two (18%) cases. Both exhibited fasciculations, and one had objective weakness. No hemotoxicity was reported. There were no reports of systemic toxicity (i.e., emesis, diarrhea, angioedema, hypotension, bleeding), tissue necrosis, compartment syndrome, or rhabdomyolysis. Antivenom was administered in nine (82%) cases. Seven received Fab, with a median dose of 11 (IQR 8.5-13.5) vials, two received Fab2 (doses = 14 and 18 vials). Length of stay was < 48 hours in 91% (n = 10) of cases. Ten cases reported follow up, five included laboratory data. No readmissions or late hemotoxicity were reported. One case reported delayed rash that resolved without treatment. Persistent paresthesias and weakness were reported in one case at day 11 follow up. Details of this case have been published.

Conclusion: Sidewinder envenomations reported to the NASBR were associated with swelling and neurotoxicity but did not exhibit hematologic toxicity, systemic toxicity, or tissue necrosis.

