

Latency of Symptom Progression in Mild *Daboia palaestinae* Envenomation

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BACKGROUND

- *Daboia palaestinae* is the most common venomous snake in Israel. In most cases, the snakebite does not develop into a systemic reaction.
- There is still no uniform therapeutic protocol in Israel for patients with mild envenomation, and there is no current data regarding latency of symptom development.
- We aimed to evaluate the latency of symptom development after *D palaestinae* snake bite in patients presenting to the ED with local reaction.

METHODS

- A retrospective single centre study of all patients who presented following a snakebite between 2015-2020. Patients with confirmed or suspected *D. palaestinae* bite were included.

RESULTS

- Sixty-two patients met the inclusion criteria. Their median age was 30 years with 75% males.
- 41% presented with local reactions to the snake bite while 29% presented with advanced local reaction and 29% with systemic symptoms.

- Antivenom was given to 22% of patients with advanced local reaction, and 89% of patients with systemic reaction.
- The median time from bite to antivenom and from ED arrival to antivenom were 2 hours and 1 hour respectively.
- Antivenom was administered at the latest 3.5 hours after presentation to the ED for progression of local symptoms.

CONCLUSION

Our findings could support a 4–6-hour observation period in the ED for patients with mild clinical presentation after *D. Palaestinae* bite. These patients could be discharged only after clear return precautions if medical care is available close to the patient's home.

	Local reaction (n=26)	Local extended reaction (n=18)	Systemic reaction (n=18)
Age (y), median (IQR)	30 (16.3, 46.2)	30.5 (16.8, 48.2)	31 (17, 48.5)
Male, n (%)	21 (80.7)	11 (61.1)	13 (72.2)
Hospitalization, n (%)	7 (26.9)	10 (55.5)	15 (83.3)
ICU admission, n (%)	1 (3.8)	3 (16.6)	12 (66.6)
ED LOS (h), median (IQR)	4.4 (2.4, 7.5)	4.4 (2.4, 7.5)	4.5 (2.4, 7.6)
Length of hospitalization (d), median (IQR)	2 (1, 3)	2 (1, 3)	2 (1, 2.5)
Received antivenom, n (%)	0	4 (22.2)	16 (88.8)