

Poster Abstracts

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A REPORT OF A CONFIRMED CASE OF BEAUTIFUL PIT VIPER (*TRIMERESURUS VENUSTUS*) BITE

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Objectives: To report a confirmed case bitten by a beautiful pit viper (*Trimeresurus venustus*)

Methods: A 24-year-old snake handler male in Snake farm, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute, was bitten by a beautiful pit viper (*T. venustus*) on his right thumb during cleaning the cage. He presented in the emergency department 15 minutes later. His vital signs were within normal limits. The patient suffered from the pain score of 6/10 and mild nausea. Two fang marks about 9 mm apart were noted on the base of his right thumb. Swelling with tenderness of the hand progressed to the wrist within an hour. There were no petechiae, ecchymoses, blebs, bleeding per gum and abnormal bleeding anywhere. The radial and digital artery pulses were normal. The CBC showed normal platelet count and no abnormal red blood cells morphology. The 20-minute whole blood clotting test was normal and INR was 1.1. The treatment was supportive with arm rest and tramadol as analgesic.

Results: The swelling was progressed to the mid-forearm within 4 hours. Next morning about 20 hours after the bite, the swelling was extended to mid-arm but the swelling at mid-forearm was markedly decreased and the pain score was 3/10. INR was 1.03. Then the overall clinical features were improved significantly. Tetanus toxoid was given before he was discharged on the second day of admission. Three days after the bite, the pain and swelling were almost subsided. He could do daily activities and his coagulogram was normal.

Conclusion: The snake was identified by the experienced veterinarian of the snake farm as *T. venustus*. This snake with a common name of beautiful pit viper is a green pit viper seen in Thailand and Malaysia. It was sometimes misidentified as *T. kanburiensis* or *T. purpureomaculatus* and vice versa. No confirmed case of its bite was reported until this case. The clinical features were mild and required only supportive care. However, the physicians should beware of hemostatis disturbances commonly found in green pit viper bites.