

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### [ID-O#021] Frequency, geographical distribution, clinical characteristics, antivenom utilisation and outcomes of King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) bites in Malaysia

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**Background:** The King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) is a medically significant species in Malaysia, yet there is limited clinical literature related to its bite envenomation.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to determine the frequency, geographical distribution, clinical presentation, antivenom utilization, and management outcomes of King Cobra-related injuries.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study analyzed confirmed King Cobra-related injuries reported to the Remote Envenomation Consultation Services (RECS) from 2015 to 2020. Data from the RECS database were descriptively analyzed.

**Results:** A total of 32 cases were identified, primarily from Peninsular Malaysia, with the highest incidence in Pahang (n=9, 28.1%). Most bites occurred during attempts to catch or play with the snake (68.8%). Envenomation signs and symptoms were documented in 24 cases (75.0%), with ptosis being the most frequent systemic manifestation (n=13, 40.6%). Tracheal intubation and ventilatory support were required in 13 patients (40.6%). Antivenom was administered to 22 patients (68.8%), with the majority (25.0%) receiving 10 vials (1 dose). The most commonly used antivenom was monospecific King Cobra antivenom (50.0%) from the Thai Red Cross. One death was documented due to complications from necrotizing fasciitis and septicemia.

**Conclusions:** Awareness of the dangers of handling King Cobras needs to be emphasized. Appropriate and timely antivenom is the definitive treatment for envenomation, Appropriate treatment leads to favorable outcomes.