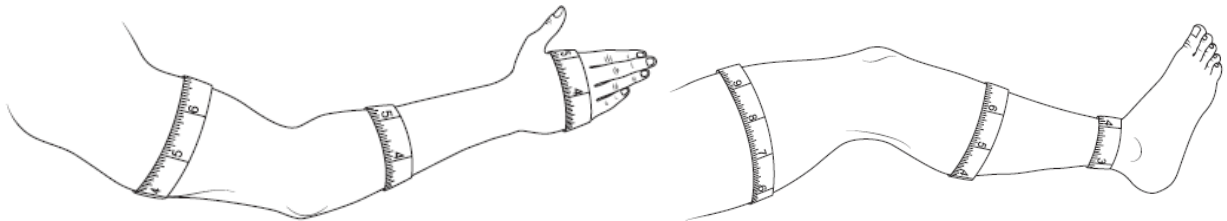




Toxicology Consultants of Arizona
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Pit Viper (Rattlesnake) Bite ED Checklist

- Call on-call toxicologist at (602) 388-1180
- Cardiac monitor and oxygen. Airway, breathing and circulation
- Start 2 large bore IVs with Normal Saline running (1-2 liter boluses are common, then 1.5 to 2X maintenance in patients without cardiac problems)
- Draw blood for labs (CBC, CMP, fibrinogen, PT/INR, d-dimer, CK)
- Mark limb with a marker in 3 places as shown below with a skin marker. Document measurements [centimeters (cm) preferred] in EMR. Measure every 30 minutes until antivenom starts then every 60 minutes after antivenom has started. May mark leading edge of swelling and note the time.



- Pain control with narcotic pain medications [fentanyl or hydromorphone (Dilaudid) is recommended]. **NO** ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin
- Administer antiemetics if required such as ondansetron (Zofran)
- Start antivenom slowly then increase rate 5-10 minutes after the start of infusion. Total infusion time is one hour.
 - Monitor for anaphylaxis to the antivenom. Treat reactions with standard treatment (antihistamines, steroids, IV fluids and epinephrine if the reaction is severe).
- Keep extremity below the level of the heart until antivenom is started. After antivenom starts, raise the extremity as high as possible (above the heart).
- Check tetanus status and administer tetanus booster if necessary

