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Diagnosis and Management of Snakebite Wound Infections: The Challenge, the Solution, and the Next Frontier

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Snakebite envenomation is a common medical emergency in the Asia Pacific region and is one of the most neglect tropical diseases. Bacterial wound infection is a major cause of wound complications. In the early phase of snakebite, it can be difficult to distinguish between infection and envenomation. However, rapid progression of severe soft tissue infection may develop and result in life or limb threatening complications.

The rate of infections varies among species of offending snakes. For example, Cobra bite wound has the highest rate of infection in Taiwan. In addition, the wide spectrum of causative organism of snakebite wound infection highlight the importance of optimal microbiological diagnostic procedure in the management of infection secondary to snakebite.