

DRUG

INF



UNIT FARMASI
HOSPITAL KOTA MARUDU

ISSUE:03/19

Cobra Antivenom
(NKAV- *Naja kaouthia antivenom*)

Cobra envenoming may cause acute **neurological dysfunction** with ptosis, (falling of the upper eyelid), ophthalmoplegia (paralysis of the eyes's muscles), dysphagia (swallowing difficulties), aphasia (inability (or impaired ability) to understand or produce speech), hypersalivation, and respiratory paralysis.

Neurotoxic snake antivenin. Passive immunization against *Naja kaouthia* (cobra) snake bites.

Remarks: *Naja kaouthia* is not known from Borneo, however the antivenom has good cross neutralisation with Equatorial spitting cobra (*Naja sumatrana*).

Recommended Dosage

- Initial dose: 100 ml (10 vials) per dose.
- Same dose for adults and children, as snakes inject the same dose of venom into children and adults



Monocled Cobra
(*Naja kaouthia*)



Equatorial Spitting
Cobra* (*Naja*
Sumatrana)

Contraindication

There are no absolute contraindications, unless the patient is known to be hypersensitive to constitutions of product.

REFERENCES:

1. Cobra Antivenin (Purified) Product Leaflet. Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute. The Thai Red Cross Society.
2. A. K. I. (2014). Snakebite Management Guide For Healthcare Providers In Malaysia. Malaysian Society of Toxicology.
3. Bahagian Perkhidmatan Farmasi Negeri Sabah (2014). Sabah Antivenom Administration Guide.
4. Ismail, Ahmad Khalidun. (2015). Snakebite and Envenomation Management in Malaysia.



Editorial board

Editors:

- 1) Wan Shuang Yew
- 2) Nurul Asikin

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Administration

- Reconstitute freeze-dried antivenom with the solution supplied or 10 ml water for injection (WFI). Gently swirl (DO NOT SHAKE) to dissolve it.
- Further dilute the reconstituted antivenom with 5-10 ml of Normal Saline or Dextrose 5% per kg body weight or 250-500 ml for adult.
- Infuse the antivenom mixture, starting slow (1-2 ml/min) over 10-15 minutes then increased to a higher rate (5-10 ml/min). If no reaction, to complete within a period of less than 1 hour.
- Subsequent dose(s) can be given every 1-2 hours, according to clinical signs/symptoms and serial blood investigation results.

Note: Skin tests need not be given as they do not reflect the real allergic reactions.

Interactions

No data available on the concomitant administration of Cobra Antivenin (purified) with other medications.

Pregnancy & Lactation

No information on the safety of this product in pregnant or lactating women.

Warning & Precautions

In cases of cobra bites, respiratory support is essential for treatment of anaphylaxis. Only for cases of previous anaphylaxis-like reactions to horse serum, skin test should be performed prior to administration by intradermal injection with 0.02 ml of 1:100 antivenin dilution.

Anaphylaxis treatment

If there is either a sudden fall in blood pressure or bronchospasm after starting the antivenom infusion, then temporarily stop the antivenom and give adrenaline, either by infusion or by subcutaneous injection, give 100 oxygen and IV fluids.

Side Effects

Transient tenderness at the injection site, cutaneous reactions (tachycardia, bradycardia, hypotension, sweating, vertigo), allergic reaction (flush, urticaria, dyspnoea) and shock.

Adverse Reactions

(Very rare) Bronchospasm, dyspnoea, pruritus, maculo-papular rash and increased sweating.

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