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P110. SNAKE VENOM TOXINS: MECHANISMS OF ACTION

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Snake venoms are mixture of enzymes and non-enzymatic proteins. They are highly modified saliva containing zootoxins which facilitates the immobilization and digestion of prey. In general, snake venom is a yellowish, whitish or colorless liquid. It is little sticky and slightly heavier than water. Structure of snake venom is decayed whether it is left to open air. Snake venom remains effective for long years provided that it is stored in a dark and cool place. Dried poison can be solved in pure or salt water (1% NaCl is sufficient). Poison is taken into a glass vessel by a sort of milking. The most ideal method for this is to let the snake bites a beaker which is surrounded by parafilm or membrane. Generally, the mechanism of action occurs in two ways: hemolytic and / or neurotoxic. Hemolytic poisons causes bleeding and disintegrating in tissues (especially vipers and rattlesnakes). Neurotoxic poisons have effect on the nervous system (especially cobras, coral snakes, sea snakes and some colubrid). At present, it is known that some types of snakes have both neurotoxic and hemolytic effects. However, some snake venom toxins have great potential as medicine for treating diseases. In this review, we interpret the mechanism of action for snake venom toxins on human tissue.