

## Writing Paper

Exam Center \_\_\_\_\_

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## Task 2

**Write a medical case report on an ED visit. Use the information provided below. Interpret the presented case. Complete this writing task in 220-240 words.**

- **Patient data:** 29 y.o.; housewife
- **Admission:** 16/10/18
- **Presenting complaint:** R arm – swollen; hurts a bit; bitten by something? (about 20 h ago)
- **Immediate past history:** no treatment regarding this condition
- **O/E:** pt fully conscious; HR: 85, reg.; BP: 110/70; swelling; redness; two marks on the skin, dark tissue around; discomfort on palpation
- **Diagnosis:** vasculotoxic snake bite
- **Initial management:** wound / cleaned; snake antivenin (10 vials) i.v.; a corticosteroid and an antihistaminic drug i.v.
- **Investigations:** Doppler ultrasound: superficial veins not inflamed, no deep vein thrombosis
- **Further management:** suspected complications (shock, impaired kidney and lung function, affected area on R arm) dealt with immediately
- **2nd day of hospitalization:** pt - worse: sleepy; HR: 110; BP: 90/60; arm: more swelling. Management: snake antivenin (extra 15 vials) i.v.
- **3rd day of hospitalization:** pt – better: fully conscious; HR: 80, reg.; BP: 120/80; arm: no swelling, no redness; ulcer (2 cm x 1 cm) developed
- **Discharge:** referral to a plastic surgeon.
- **Follow-up:** complete recovery (no deformation) after 6 wks

Model answer – Case Report

A 29-year-old housewife came to the Emergency Department complaining of pain and swelling in her right arm after exposure to an unknown bite at her houseyard nearly 20 hours before admission. She said she had not received any treatment for this bite before. Initial examination revealed a fully conscious patient with stable vital signs. Inspection and palpation of the arm showed oedema, redness, tenderness and two insertion sites with dark necrotic tissue around. Diagnosis of a vasculotoxic snake bite was established. The wound was cleaned. Ten vials of snake antivenin were promptly administered intravenously with a corticosteroid and an antihistaminic infusion in another intravenous line. Doppler US revealed no superficial thrombophlebitis nor DVT. Immediate management of any suspected complication was performed for shock, impaired kidney function, lung infection, and the gangrenous area over the affected limb. On the second day the patient's condition slightly deteriorated despite the treatment and fluid support. She was drowsy, her pulse increased, BP decreased. Thanks to administration of additional fifteen vials of antivenom, the symptoms subsided and on the third day the patient regained full consciousness with normal vital signs. The oedema and redness disappeared, but an ulcer developed, measuring about 2 by 1 cm. The patient was discharged and referred to a plastic surgeon with a plan of follow-up management of the gangrenous limb. Its complete healing without any deformation occurred after a six-week management in the outpatient clinic as reported by the surgeon.

(240 words)

Source: <https://www.oatext.com/a-snake-bite-case-the-value-of-timely-diaagnosis-and-treatment.php#Article>

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