

### **OP-34. Outcome of envenomation due to snake bite during pregnancy**

*SL Seneviratne, C E de Silva, MMD Fonseka, S B Gunatilake, H Jde Silva  
Base Hospital, Polonnaruwa and Faculty of Medicine, Ragama*

**INTRODUCTION:** Snake bite during pregnancy is rare, and its effects and outcome are poorly documented. The few cases in the literature show significant maternal and foetal morbidity and mortality. There are no guidelines on management.

**AIMS:** To describe the management and outcome of pregnant women bitten by highly venomous snakes.

**METHODS:** All pregnant women who were admitted to the Professorial Medical Unit, Colombo North General Hospital and Base Hospital, Polonnaruwa with a history of bite by a positively identified venomous snake, during a 40 month period between September 1996 to December 1999, were prospectively studied. Anti-venom serum (AVS) was administered when significant envenomation was present in the same manner in which it is used for non-pregnant women.

**RESULTS:** Of the 24 women admitted 10 patients [median age 26 years (range 22-30) 3 in the first trimester, 7 in the second] had features of systemic envenomation. Details of the snake, antivenom therapy and outcome are given below.

---

Patient	Identity of snake	Amount of antivenom (vials)	Maternal outcome	Foetal outcome
1	Russell's Viper	20	Good	Abortion
2	Russell's Viper	40	Good	Abortion
i	Russell's Viper	30	Good	Abortion
4	Ceylon Krait	30	Good	Good
5	Ceylon Krait	40	Good	Abortion
6	Russell's Viper	10	Good	Good
7	Russell's Viper	30	Good	Good
8	Russell's Viper	30	Good	Good
9	Russell's Viper	40	Good	Abortion
10	Russell's Viper	40	Good	Foetal malformation

---

**CONCLUSIONS:** In the management of envenomation due to bites of venomous snakes, AVS therapy results in a good maternal outcome. There is high foetal wastage that may be the result of either envenomation itself or AVS therapy.