



### Implications of Anti Snake Venom Crisis

Snakebite is one of the major health problems across the world which takes lives of hundreds of people across the world. Globally every year it kills over 100,000 people, and permanently disable around 4 lakh people. The antsnake venom is the only live-saving medication which are prepared by immunizing serum from large mammals, with snake venom.

The demand for anti-snake venom is increasing as the number of snakebites are increasing. The increased demand is leading to disparity between production and requirement of antsnake venom which in turn leads to acute shortage of the lifesaving medication. The shortage of the antsnake venom is becoming a major problem than snakebite itself. There are many factors which contribute for the shortage of antsnake venom like improper use, extra cautious approach of snakebite management, no strict guidelines for its use, manufacturing difficulty, cost of production, limited enticements etc. People in tropical countries and sub Saharan-African countries face life threatening consequences due to scarcity of antsnake venom rather than snakebite itself.

The antivenom crisis must be addressed effectively to reduce the morbidity and mortalities due to this unnatural neglected tropical disease. In this regard the efforts are being made by many researchers, government and private funding agencies. Even the World Health Organization has stepped in into the matter. Many scientific advancements are underway to produce synthetic antsnake venom, thus embracing the synthetic biology to meet the need of the hour. Recent studies which have engineered the DNA pieces to trigger the antibodies against the snake venom and neutralized the effects of bites using synthetic antibody fragments have promised to tackle the antivenom crisis. However along with newer researches, judicious use of antsnake venom and strict guidelines for its use and effective implementation of these guidelines can find an answer for the scarcity of antsnake venom and help to prevent snakebite fatalities.

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