Red Back Spiderbite Management Flowchart

Please note:

This chart cannot cover all possible situations and assumes an understanding of the symptoms and signs of local, general and specific envenoming by Australian red back spiders. If in doubt, seek advice from the Poisons Information Centre (131126) and from your local Critical Care Referral Network.

START HERE →

Patient presents with possible red back spiderbite

Was a spider seen to bite?

Yes

Red back spider?

Yes

Develops severe spreading or regional pain ± sweating, hypertension, nausea, malaise

TREATMENT

Give 2 ampoules CSL Red Back Spider Antivenom IM or IV, with adrenaline ready should an anaphylactoid reaction occur

No

Local pain only ± local sweating

TREATMENT

Observe

Symptoms resolve or remain minor

No symptoms of red back spider bite

No

Not sure what type

No

No symptoms of red back spider bite

It may be some other type of spiderbite or other bite or sting

Patient has symptoms suggestive of red back spider bite?

Yes

Devisps severe spreading or regional pain ± sweating, hypertension, nausea, malaise

TREATMENT

Consider giving CSL Red Back Spider Antivenom

No

Continues to have local severe pain, not relieved by analgesics

TREATMENT

Give another 2 ampoules CSL Red Back Spider Antivenom IM or IV, with adrenaline ready should an anaphylactoid reaction occur.

If still poor response 2hrs seek expert advice!

Symptom resolve over next 2 hrs?

Yes

No

Flowchart developed by Professor Julian White