



There are numerous venomous and nonvenomous snakes in Ecuador. While most cytotoxic venoms cause pain within a few minutes, some take much longer. Neurotoxic signs and symptoms are often delayed for hours and can result in death. Circle the bite site with a permanent marker and note the time; take a digital picture. Begin an immediate and rapid evacuation to the closest hospital with antivenom. When you get to the takeout, call the clinic to ensure they have antivenom. Monitor for cytotoxic, hemotoxic, and neurotoxic signs and symptoms every 20-30 minutes. Mark the leading edge of any cytotoxic or hemotoxic signs on his foot and leg (excessive bleeding, discoloration, blisters, pain, tenderness, swelling, etc.). Document your findings on a SOAP note; take pictures. When Josh develops blurred vision and facial ticks (fasciculations), you know he was bitten by a snake with neurotoxic venom. If he does not reach antivenom soon, he may die of respiratory arrest. (NOTE: The snake pictured in the case study is an aquatic coral snake—*Micrurus surinamensis*—with a highly toxic venom found in South America. Unfortunately, this particular snake presents with atypical coloration for the species, making it challenging to identify.)