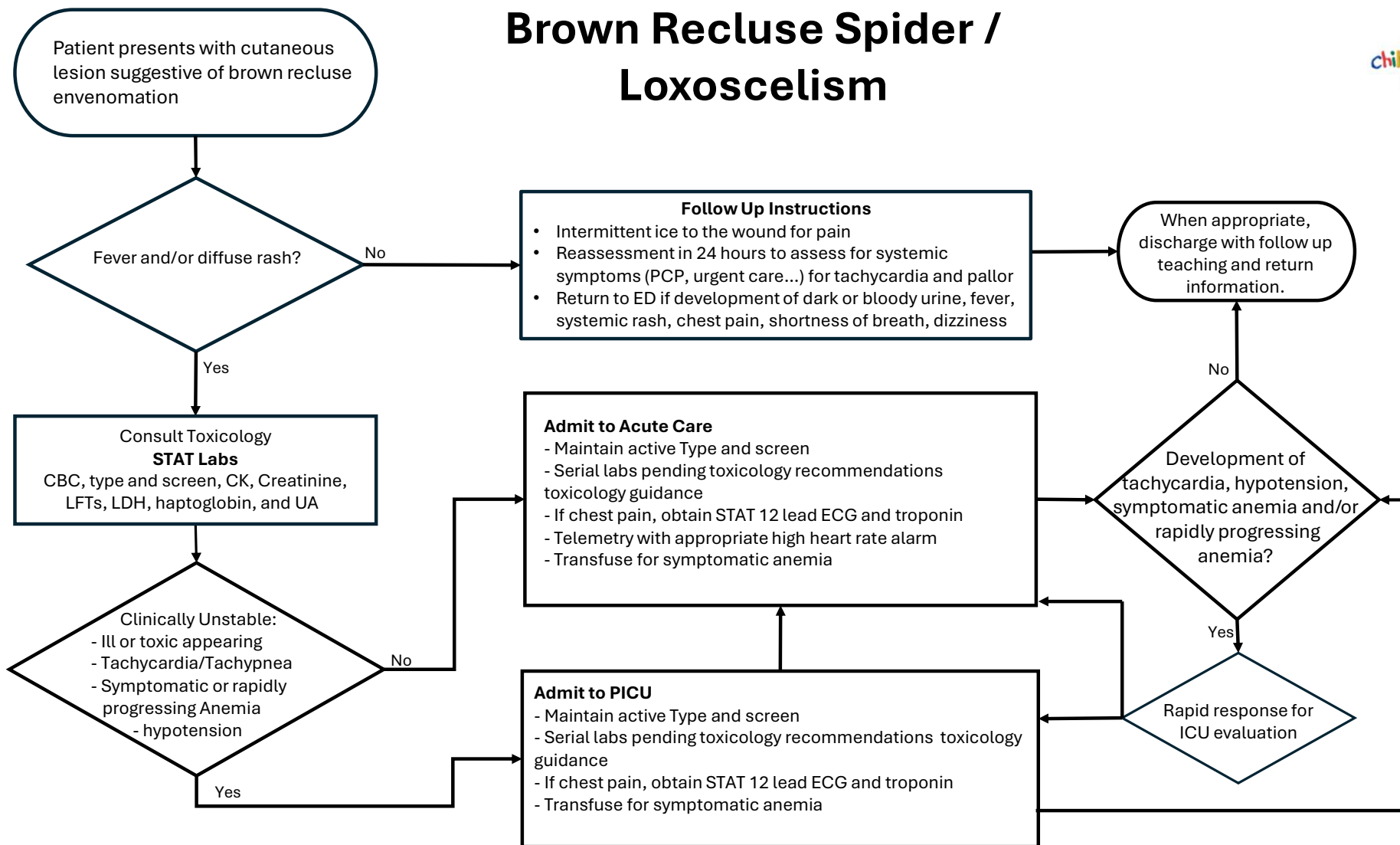


Brown Recluse Spider / Loxoscelism



Brown Recluse Spider / Loxoscelism

Tennessee Poison Center 800-222-1222

Inclusion Criteria:

- Signs and symptoms of loxoscelism include witnessed spider bite by brown recluse (rare) or a localized lesion with systemic signs including generalized rash, and fever.

- Typical lesions can have an innocuous appearance with a centralized blister or dark discoloration.

- Please put an image (or serial images) in the medical record of all suspected envenomations for toxicology review.



Exclusion Criteria:

Loxoscelism lesions differ from cellulitis in that loxoscelism does not have purulent wounds with drainage



Symptomatic Anemia:

- tachycardia
- tachypnea
- pale mucous membranes
- orthostatic changes
- pale conjunctiva

Late signs of Symptomatic Anemia

- hypotension for age
- elevated lactate
- altered mental status

Caveats and Therapies

- Maintain type and screen at all times
- Scheduled labs for monitoring occult changes
- UA is not sensitive in determining hemolysis risk.
- Hgb is more accurate for patients with hemolysis
- Hemoglobinuria is insensitive for acute hemolysis as 25% of patients with hemolysis will not have hemoglobin in urine
- No clinical indication for steroids or dapsone
- For ill/toxic appearing patients, can add antibiotics with sepsis evaluation, although secondary infection is rare in non-Diabetic patients.
- Surgical excision is rarely indicated

Rapid hemolysis can be life threatening and requires diligent monitoring and rapid treatment. Transfusion can be needed at thresholds higher than those for anemia not related to hemolysis.