

# Glossary of terms

Anaphylaxis	An immediate and severe allergic reaction to a substance (eg venom, food or drugs). Symptoms of anaphylaxis include breathing difficulty, loss of consciousness and a drop in blood pressure. This condition can be fatal and requires immediate medical attention.
Antivenom	Antivenom (or antivenin, or antivenene) is a biological product used in the treatment of venomous bites. It is created by injecting a small amount of the targeted venom into an animal such as horses, sheep, goats, or rabbits; the subject animal will suffer an immune response to the venom, producing antibodies against the venom's active molecule which can then be harvested from the animal's blood and used to treat envenomation in others.
Coagulopathy	A disorder that prevents normal clotting of the blood.
d-dimer	D-dimer is an end product derived from plasmin-mediated degradation of cross-linked fibrin clots. D-dimer measurement has proved to be a sensitive marker for the evaluation of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC).
Defibrination	The loss of fibrin from blood.
Envenomation	The envenomation mechanism refers to venom actually being injected as a result of a bite/sting.
Monovalent	An antivenom that is specific for a single venom type.
Myoglobin	Is an oxygen store protein found in muscles. Myoglobin is released from damaged muscle tissue (rhabdomyolysis). The released myoglobin is filtered by the kidneys but is toxic to the renal tubular epithelium and so may cause acute renal failure.
Polyvalent	An antivenom that is active against multiple venom types.
Venom	A liquid injected by one animal into another, which causes pain or destruction of body tissue. Some venoms are lethal, depending on the animal (or person) being injected. Venom can be injected by either stingers, fangs or spines.