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PHOENIX (April 9, 2018) -- Typically a patient with a rattlesnake bite receives 10 or more vials of antivenom, a stay in the ICU and a large hospital bill. A study titled, “Comparison of Antivenom Dosing Strategies for Rattlesnake Envenomation,” was recently published in the Critical Care Medicine Journal and highlights a new approach to treating patients that have suffered a rattlesnake bite.

In summary, toxicologists are using less antivenom (which means less out-of-pocket expense for patients) and having shorter ICU and length of stays without worse outcomes.

Several years ago the entire treatment approach at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix was changed, in this study the new and old approaches are compared highlighting the improvement in outcomes.

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Anne-Michelle Ruha, MD, vice-chair of the department of toxicology at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix, can speak about how using less antivenom is possible, what this means for the patient, and more.

Click to download: Comparison of Antivenom Dosing Strategies for Rattlesnake Envenomation (165 KB)

http://bannerhealth.mediaroom.com/antivenom