



Figure 1. Tiger snake. *Notechis scutatus*, family Elapidae. (Reproduced with permission from Museum Victoria, photographer Peter Robertson.)

## Coagulopathy after snake envenomation

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An 85-year-old woman presented to our emergency department 2 hours after a tiger snake (figure 1) bite to her hand. Within 30 minutes of arrival her conscious state rapidly deteriorated, and her left pupil dilated. CT demonstrated intracerebral and intraventricular hemorrhage (figure 2). Coagulation studies revealed a severe consumptive coagulopathy, with afibrinogenemia. Normalization of her coagulation studies was achieved with administration of 14 ampoules of tiger snake antivenom and seven units of fresh-frozen plasma. Despite this, she failed to regain consciousness and died 4 days later after elective extubation. Severe consumptive coagulopathy is a well-known effect of elapid snake envenomation.



Figure 2. Brain CT. An intraparenchymal blood fluid level (arrow) is seen. This appearance is suggestive of a coagulopathy-related intracerebral hemorrhage, and has been well-described in intracerebral hemorrhage complicating thrombolytic therapy.<sup>1</sup>

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