

Biodistribution of *Bothrops jararaca* venom in mice.

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The biodistribution of most snake venoms have been poorly studied. Recently our group has devoted attention to this problem in order to understand pathological events in these severe envenomations. The present work shows the biodistribution of the crude botropic venom, after iodination using ^{125}I as protein tracer.

Mice (30-40g) were sc injected with 2×10^6 cpm of ^{125}I crude botropic venom and serially killed. Blood and organ radioactivity and weight were determined. Venom plasma concentration decays with time in a bicompartimental model. Other data show that the venom was excreted mainly by the kidneys, fitting a unicompartimental model, with a slower rate than other snakes toxins, with 12.5% of the venom remaining after 24 hs. Others organs, as heart, spleen, liver and muscle, present a relative concentration in the early few hours, but probably related to plasma venom concentration or hemodynamic alterations related to venom action. In lungs, a more clear concentration effect could be seen, probably related to the intense clearing activity in this organ. These findings could be ascribed solely to restricted reaction at the site of the injection, with poor interaction with distant organ, without specific binding of venom fractions.

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