plot outlook suggested that patients with a fold change in miRNA-208b higher than 1, was at risk of having a cardiac injury (ie. Troponin positive).

**Conclusion:** This study concluded that miRNA-208b is a sensitive and specific biomarker in early detection of cardiac injury in patients with cardiovascular drugs poisonings for the early treatment of cardiotoxicity.

**Alpha fetoprotein; a prognostic marker for early detection of liver regeneration in acute paracetamol toxicity**

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**Background:** Acute paracetamol toxicity is one of the commonest toxicities that lead to serious hepatic injury that could propagate to fulminant hepatic failure. An increase in serum level of alpha fetoprotein was observed following liver injury, and this increase was assumed to be associated with hepatic regeneration. Alpha fetoprotein (AFP) ratio (day 3/day 1 serum level) was proved to be a predictor for prognosis.

**Aim:** The present study aims to evaluate the prognostic value of serum AFP and to evaluate the value of alpha fetoprotein ratio (day 2/day 1 serum level) for earlier prediction of the degree of liver regeneration after acute paracetamol toxicity.

**Methods:** The present study was conducted on 32 patients with acute single paracetamol overdose admitted to the Poison Control Centre of Ain Shams University hospitals (PCC-ASUH). Liver routine laboratory tests were done on admission and on the second day in addition to measurement of the serum level of alpha fetoprotein.

**Results and Conclusions:** Results showed that the increased serum level of alpha fetoprotein was linked to regeneration of the liver which was suggested by shortening of the duration of hospital stay. In addition, the AFP ratio day2/day1 serum level was suggested by the study results to be an efficient prognostic factor in cases with acute paracetamol toxicity for early prediction of the state of regeneration of the liver.

**Wide local excision of the venom injection area; a possible alternative method to antivenom application in the treatment of cerastes cerastes viper envenomation in experimental animals**

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**Background:** Viper envenomation is one of the common toxicity accidents encountered in temperate countries, and one of the important causes of death. Egypt is one of the countries suffering this problem. Cerastes cerastes is one of the most abundant venomous viper species in North Africa and the Middle East. Envenomation by vipers is characterized by prominent local tissue damage as well as systemic alterations in the form of coagulopathy that induces spontaneous haemorrhage. Antivenoms are the mainstay of treatment; however they are of little effectiveness in treating the local effects. Owing to their side effects and the decrease in their overall worldwide production, new therapeutic strategies are encouraged worldwide.

**Methods:** The present work studied the efficiency of wide local excision of the venom injection site in albino rats in ameliorating the local and systemic effects of Cerastes cerastes viper venom. The study compared the healing and cosmetic results with the use of undermining and direct closure of the skin defect and the use of Limberg flap.

**Results:** Analysis of the results revealed that wide local excision of the venom injection area was efficient in correction of all the laboratory findings caused by the venom. Local healing progressed normally with a normal scar observed after complete superficial healing and there was no incidence of infection or skin edge necrosis in the study groups.

**Conclusions:** Wide local excision of the venom injection area was proved efficient in ameliorating the systemic alterations caused by Cerastes cerastes viper venom. It also produced a cosmetically appealing scar that is not reached with using other treatment strategies owing to the occurrence of the healing process in healthy tissues in our case. The use of Limberg flap produced better cosmetic results than direct closure.