



## CROFAB®

### CROTALIDAE POLYVALENT IMMUNE FAB (OVINE)

#### DESCRIPTION

CroFab® [Crotalidae Polyvalent Immune Fab (Ovine)] is a sterile, nonpyrogenic, purified, lyophilized preparation of ovine Fab (monovalent) immunoglobulin fragments obtained from the blood of healthy sheep flocks immunized with one of the following North American snake venoms: *Crotalus atrox* (Western Diamondback rattlesnake), *Crotalus adamanteus* (Eastern Diamondback rattlesnake), *Crotalus scutulatus* (Mojave rattlesnake), and *Agkistrodon piscivorus* (Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin). To obtain the final antivenin product, the four different monospecific antivenins are mixed. Each monospecific antivenin is prepared by fractionating the immunoglobulin from the ovine serum, digesting it with papain, and isolating the venom-specific Fab fragments on ion exchange and affinity chromatography columns.

CroFab is standardized by its ability to neutralize the lethal action of each of the four venom immunogens following intravenous injection in mice. The potency of the product will vary from batch to batch; however, a minimum number of mouse LD<sub>50</sub> neutralizing units against each of the four venoms is included in every vial of final product, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Minimum Mouse LD<sub>50</sub> Neutralizing Units\* for Each Venom Component

Venom	Minimum Potency per Vial of CroFab™
<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	≥ 1270
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	≥ 420
<i>Crotalus scutulatus</i>	≥ 5570
<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	≥ 780

\* One neutralizing unit is determined as the amount of the mixed monospecific Fab proteins necessary to neutralize one LD<sub>50</sub> of each of the four venoms, where the LD<sub>50</sub> is the amount of venom that would be lethal in 50% of mice.

\*\* As of 2008, the potency assay has been optimized for a new strain of mice, which has resulted in changes to the minimum mouse LD<sub>50</sub> neutralizing units. These changes do not reflect any change in product potency, but only a different biological response of the mouse strain to the venom.

Each vial of CroFab contains up to 1 g of total protein and sodium phosphate buffer consisting of dibasic sodium phosphate USP and sodium chloride USP. Thimerosal is used as a preservative in the manufacturing process, and as such, mercury is carried over into the final product at an amount no greater than 104.5 mcg per vial, which amounts to no more than 1.9 mg of mercury per dose (based on the maximum dose of 18 vials used in clinical studies of CroFab). The product is intended for intravenous administration after reconstitution with 10 mL of Sterile Water for Injection USP.

#### CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

##### Mechanism of Action:

CroFab is a venom-specific Fab fragment of immunoglobulin G (IgG) that works by binding and neutralizing venom toxins, facilitating their redistribution away from target tissues and their elimination from the body.

##### Animal Studies:

CroFab was effective in neutralizing the venoms of 10 clinically important North American crotalid snakes in a murine lethality model (see Table 2) [1]. In addition, preliminary data from experiments in mice using whole IgG from the sheep immunized for CroFab production suggest that CroFab might possess antigenic cross-reactivity against the venoms of some Middle Eastern and North African snakes; however, there are no clinical data available to confirm these findings.

Table 2. ED<sub>50</sub> Values for CroFab in Mice

Study Objective & Design	Endpoint Measured	Major Findings and Conclusions																						
To determine the cross-neutralizing ability of CroFab to protect mice from the lethal effects of venom from clinically important species.	ED <sub>50</sub> for each venom	<b>(Note: Lower numbers represent increased potency against venoms listed)</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Challenge Venom</th> <th>ED<sub>50</sub> (expressed as mcg antivenin/mg venom)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td><i>C. atrox</i></td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. adamanteus</i></td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. scutulatus</i></td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td><i>A. piscivorus</i></td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. h. atricaudatus</i></td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. v. helleri</i></td><td>122</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. m. molossus</i></td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td><i>A. c. contortrix</i></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td><i>S. m. barbouri</i></td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td><i>C. h. horridus</i></td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Challenge Venom	ED <sub>50</sub> (expressed as mcg antivenin/mg venom)	<i>C. atrox</i>	5	<i>C. adamanteus</i>	8	<i>C. scutulatus</i>	15	<i>A. piscivorus</i>	3	<i>C. h. atricaudatus</i>	7	<i>C. v. helleri</i>	122	<i>C. m. molossus</i>	25	<i>A. c. contortrix</i>	4	<i>S. m. barbouri</i>	7	<i>C. h. horridus</i>	6
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Separate groups of mice were injected with increasing doses of CroFab pre-mixed with two LD <sub>50</sub> of each venom tested.		Based on the data from this study in mice, CroFab has relatively good cross-protection against venoms not used in the immunization of flocks used to produce it, except for <i>C. v. helleri</i> , where a very high dose is required, and for <i>C. m. molossus</i> , where a moderately high dose is required.																						

#### Clinical Pharmacokinetics:

The planned pharmacokinetic study of CroFab was not adequately performed. A limited number of samples were collected from three patients. Based on these data, estimates of elimination half-life were made. The elimination half-life for total Fab ranged from approximately 12 to 23 hours. These limited pharmacokinetic estimates of half-life are augmented by data obtained with an analogous ovine Fab product produced by Protherics Inc. using a similar production process. In that study, 8 healthy subjects were given 1 mg of intravenous digoxin followed by an approximately equimolar neutralizing dose of 76 mg of digoxin immune Fab (ovine). Total Fab was shown to have a volume of distribution of 0.3 L/kg, a systemic clearance of 32 mL/min (approximately 0.4 mL/min/kg) and an elimination half-life of approximately 15 hours.

#### Clinical Studies:

**No clinical studies have been conducted comparing CroFab with other antivenins, therefore, no comparisons can be made between CroFab and other antivenins.**

Two clinical trials using CroFab have been conducted. They were prospectively defined, open-label, multi-center trials conducted in otherwise healthy patients 11 years of age or older who had suffered from minimal or moderate (as defined in Table 3) North American crotalid envenomation that showed evidence of progression. Progression was defined as the worsening of any evaluation parameter used in the grading of an envenomation: local injury, laboratory abnormality or symptoms and signs attributable to crotalid snake venom poisoning. Both clinical trials excluded patients with Copperhead envenomation. To date, there are no clinical data supporting the efficacy of CroFab in patients presenting with severe envenomation.

Table 3. Definition of Minimal, Moderate, and Severe Envenomation in Clinical Studies of CroFab

Envenomation Category	Definition
Minimal	<u>Swelling, pain, and ecchymosis</u> limited to the immediate bite site; <u>Systemic signs and symptoms</u> absent; <u>Coagulation parameters</u> normal with no clinical evidence of bleeding.
Moderate	<u>Swelling, pain, and ecchymosis</u> involving less than a full extremity or, if bite was sustained on the trunk, head or neck, extending less than 50 cm; <u>Systemic signs and symptoms</u> may be present but not life threatening, including but not limited to nausea, vomiting, oral paresthesia or unusual tastes, mild hypotension (systolic blood pressure <90 mmHg), mild tachycardia (heart rate <150), and tachypnea; <u>Coagulation parameters</u> may be abnormal, but no clinical evidence of bleeding present. Minor hematuria, gum bleeding and nosebleeds are allowed if they are not considered severe in the investigator's judgment.
Severe	<u>Swelling, pain, and ecchymosis</u> involving more than an entire extremity or threatening the airway; <u>Systemic signs and symptoms</u> are markedly abnormal, including severe alteration of mental status, severe hypotension, severe tachycardia, tachypnea, or respiratory insufficiency; <u>Coagulation parameters</u> are abnormal, with serious bleeding or severe threat of bleeding.

In both clinical studies, efficacy was determined using a Snakebite Severity Score (SSS) [2] (referred to as the efficacy score or ES in these clinical studies) and an investigator's clinical assessment (ICA) of efficacy. The SSS (referred to as the ES) is a tool used to measure the severity of envenomation based on six body categories: local wound (e.g., pain, swelling and ecchymosis), pulmonary, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, hematological, and nervous system effects. A higher score indicates worse symptoms. In a retrospective study using medical records of 108 snakebite victims [2], the SSS has been shown to correlate well with physicians' assessment of the patient's condition at presentation (Pearson correlation coefficient:  $r=0.63$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ) and when the patient's condition was at its worst ( $r=0.70$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ). In this study, the condition of 87/108 patients worsened during hospitalization. Changes in the physicians' assessment of condition correlated well with changes in SSS. CroFab was required to prevent an increase in the ES in order to demonstrate efficacy.

The ICA was based on the investigator's clinical judgment as to whether the patient had a:

- Clinical response (pre-treatment signs and symptoms of envenomation were arrested or improved after treatment)
- Partial response (signs and symptoms of envenomation worsened, but at a slower rate than expected after treatment)
- Non-response (the patient's condition was not favorably affected by the treatment).

Safety was assessed by monitoring for early allergic events, such as anaphylaxis and early serum reactions during CroFab infusion, and late events, such as late serum reactions.

#### Tab001:

In the first clinical study of CroFab, 11 patients received an intravenous dose of 4 vials of CroFab over 60 minutes. An additional 4-vial dose of CroFab was administered after completion of the first CroFab infusion, if deemed necessary by the investigator. At the 1-hour assessment, 10 out of 11 patients had no change or a decrease in their ES. Ten of 11 patients were also judged to have a clinical response by the ICA. Several patients, after initial clinical response, subsequently required additional vials of CroFab to stem progressive or recurrent symptoms and signs. No patient in this first study experienced an anaphylactic or anaphylactoid response or evidence of an early or late serum reaction as a result of administration of CroFab.

#### Tab002:

Based on observations from the first study, the second clinical study of CroFab compared two different dosage schedules. Patients were given an initial intravenous dose of 6 vials of CroFab with an option to re-treat with an additional 6 vials, if needed, to achieve initial control of the envenomation syndrome. Initial control was defined as complete arrest of local manifestations, and return of coagulation tests and systemic signs to normal. Once initial control was achieved, patients were randomized to receive additional CroFab either every 6 hours for 18 hours (Scheduled Group) or as needed (PRN Group).

In this trial, CroFab was administered safely to 31 patients with minimal or moderate crotalid envenomation. All 31 patients enrolled in the study achieved initial control of their envenomation with CroFab, and 30, 25 and 26 of the 31 patients achieved a clinical response based on the ICA at 1, 6 and 12 hours respectively following initial control. Additionally, the mean ES was significantly decreased across the patient groups by the 12-hour evaluation time point ( $p=0.05$  for the Scheduled Group;  $p=0.05$  for the PRN Group) (see Table 4). There was no statistically significant difference between the Scheduled Group and the PRN Group with regard to the decrease in ES.

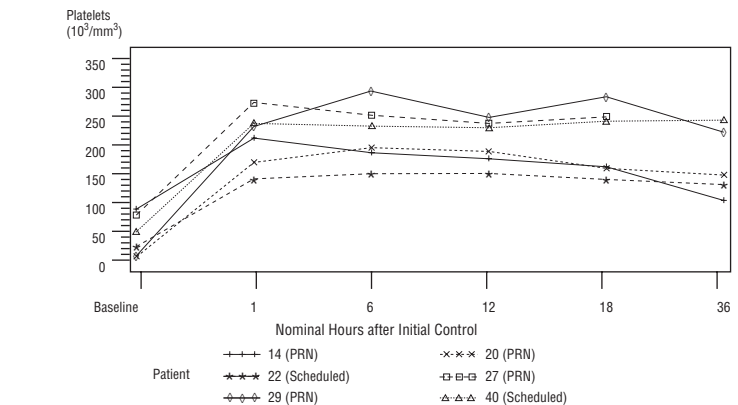
Table 4. Summary of Patient Efficacy Scores for Scheduled and PRN Groups

Time Period	Scheduled Group (n=15) Efficacy Score* Mean ± SD	PRN Group (n=16) Efficacy Score* Mean ± SD
Baseline	4.0 ± 1.3	4.7 ± 2.5
End of Initial Control Antivenin Infusion(s)	3.2 ± 1.4	3.3 ± 1.3
1 hour after Initial Control achieved	3.1 ± 1.3	3.2 ± 0.9
6 hours after Initial Control achieved	2.6 ± 1.5	2.6 ± 1.3
12 hours after Initial Control achieved	2.4 ± 1.1**	2.4 ± 1.2**

- \* No change or a decline in the Efficacy Score was considered an indication of clinical response and a sign of efficacy.
- \*\* For both the Scheduled and the PRN Groups, differences in the Efficacy Score at the four post-baseline assessment times were statistically decreased from baseline by Friedman's test ( $p < 0.001$ ).

In published literature accounts of rattlesnake bites, it has been noted that a decrease in platelets can accompany moderately severe envenomation, which whole blood transfusions could not correct [3]. These platelet count decreases have been observed to last for many hours and often several days following the venomous bite [3, 4, 5]. In this clinical study, 6 patients had pre-dosing platelet counts below 100,000/mm<sup>3</sup> (baseline average of 44,000/mm<sup>3</sup>). Of note, the platelet counts for all 6 patients increased to normal levels (average 209,000/mm<sup>3</sup>) at 1 hour following initial control dosing with CroFab (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Graph of Platelet Counts from Baseline to 36 Hours for Patients with Counts <100,000/mm<sup>3</sup> at Baseline (Study Tab002)



Although there was no significant difference in the decrease in ES between the two treatment groups, the data suggest that Scheduled dosing may provide better control of envenomation symptoms caused by the continued leaking of venom from depot sites. Scheduled patients experienced a lower incidence of coagulation abnormalities at follow-up compared with PRN patients (see Table 5 and Figure 2). In addition, the need to administer additional CroFab to patients in the PRN Group after initial control suggests that there is a continued need for antivenin for adequate treatment.

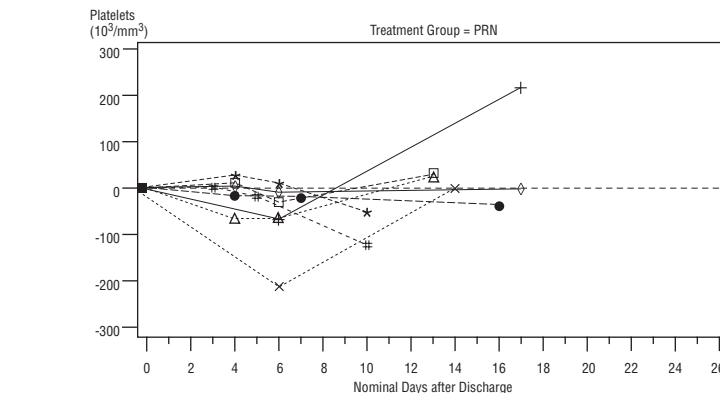
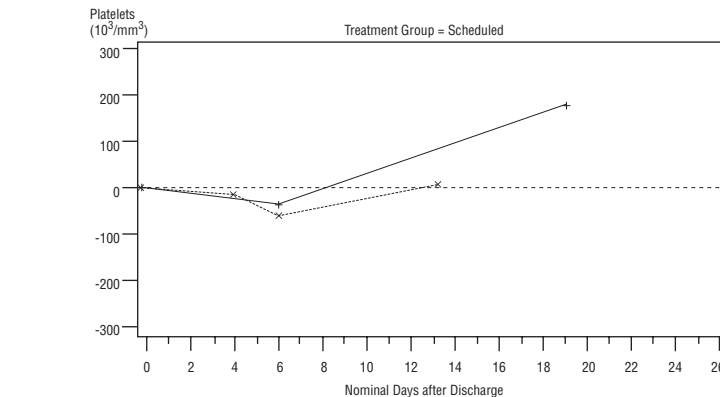
Table 5. Lower Incidence of Recurrence of Coagulopathies at Follow-up in Scheduled and PRN Dosing Groups

	Scheduled Group (n=14)* (percent of patients with abnormal values) <sup>^</sup>	PRN Group (n=16) (percent of patients with abnormal values) <sup>^</sup>
Platelet	2/14 (14%)**	9/16 (56%)**
Fibrinogen	2/14 (14%)	7/16 (44%)

- <sup>^</sup> Numbers are expressed as percent of patients that had a follow-up platelet count that was less than the count at hospital discharge, or a fibrinogen level less than 50% of the level at hospital discharge.
- \* Follow-up data not available for one patient.
- \*\* Statistically significant difference,  $p=0.04$  by Fisher's Exact test.

Figure 2. Change in Platelet Counts in Individual Patients between Follow-up Visits and Discharge

Patients in the Scheduled and PRN Groups are plotted separately. More patients in the PRN Group showed a reduction in platelet count after discharge than in the Scheduled Group. Only patients showing a reduced platelet count after discharge are shown.



#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

CroFab is indicated for the management of patients with minimal or moderate North American crotalid envenomation (see Table 3 in Clinical Studies section for definitions). The term crotalid is used to describe the Crotalinae subfamily (formerly known as Crotalidae) of venomous snakes which includes rattlesnakes, copperheads and cottonmouths/water moccasins. Early use of CroFab (within 6 hours of snakebite) is advised to prevent clinical deterioration and the occurrence of systemic coagulation abnormalities.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

CroFab should not be administered to patients with a known history of hypersensitivity to papaya or papain unless the benefits outweigh the risks and appropriate management for anaphylactic reactions is readily available.



