**Tips for preparing to do case studies**

In our blogs and throughout our books and on our website, the student will see case studies presented. Occasionally these case studies will be case studies that are written for students in story form that are not necessarily true. Sometimes, there will be actual case studies from medical journals.

For Snake Bite 101, at the bottom of this sheet, there is a link to a case study.

It is difficult for the student who has not been exposed to medicine to understand the case study, so we have prepared a tip list for all kinds of case studies.

* When reading the case study, the student will have to know what they do not know. If he/she does not know something whether it is the definition of a word, or a test value – he/she must look it up. Understanding anything linked to a case study is vital. The student may not fully understand the concept, but the next time the student is exposed to the concept, it will be easier to comprehend.
* It might be easier to read the case study from beginning to end and jot down some notes and maybe look up some unfamiliar material.
* Then, start from the beginning of the case study, look up what is not understood and write down the values or definition and apply to case study.
* Sometimes learning how to understand case studies can be tedious, but stick with it, and it will get easier and easier with each case study read.

This might help in the case study below. If I were starting this snake case study, I would save the document in order to be able to read it. It is in PowerPoint, so this case study is easy to read and although there are many slides, it will go quickly (about an hour). Then I would start defining words I am unfamiliar. For an example in the third slide envenomation is a word I am not familiar with, so I would need to look that up. Slide 10 talks about modalities. I have another definition on modality that I am familiar with that is different, so I would need to look up modalities and the 4 principals of modalities. Slide 11 starts the case study. I might think of things that are put down and wonder how things might connect, such as why is drinking alcohol important in this study? Slide 13 has many acronyms such as ETT, WBC, and others. What are those? WBC is White Blood Count. What is a normal White Count? The student would have to do this with all unknown information. After this particular case study there is a lot of extra information. The student would determine if he/she would want to continue. So, give this a try. You might enjoy this!

<http://www.caccn.ca/en/pdfs/snake%20bite.pdf>