**Brand Name:** Antivenin
**Generic:** latrodectus mactans
**Type:** antibody
**Year Accepted/Phase:** 1936

## Mechanism:

Antivenin (latrodectus mactans) is composed of antibodies derived from horses immunized with black widow spider venom. These antibodies neutralize the toxins present in the venom of the black widow spider, preventing the venom from interacting with nerve endings and causing the severe pain and muscle spasms typically associated with black widow spider envenomation.

## Chemical Structure: N/A

## Indication:

Indicated for the treatment of clinically significant black widow spider envenomation.

## Clinical trials:

### Early Clinical Use

**Purpose:** Evaluate the safety and efficacy of Antivenin (latrodectus mactans) in treating black widow spider envenomation.
**Dates:** Initial clinical use and studies were conducted in the mid-20th century, with the antivenin being used clinically since the 1930s.
**Results:** Early studies and clinical experiences demonstrated that the antivenin was effective in rapidly alleviating pain and systemic symptoms associated with black widow spider bites. The antivenin was found to be particularly beneficial for severe cases where supportive care was insufficient.
**Impact:** These early results led to the widespread adoption of the antivenin in clinical practice for severe black widow spider envenomations.

### Modern Clinical Evaluations

**Purpose:** Assess the continued efficacy and safety of Antivenin (latrodectus mactans) in the current clinical setting, given advancements in supportive care and potential allergic reactions to horse serum-derived products.
**Dates:** More recent evaluations and reviews have been conducted periodically, particularly in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.
**Results:** Modern reviews and studies have confirmed the efficacy of the antivenin in rapidly reversing severe symptoms of envenomation. However, they have also highlighted the potential for allergic reactions and the importance of balancing the risks and benefits, particularly in mild to moderate cases where supportive care might suffice.
**Impact:** These findings have reinforced the use of antivenin for severe cases while emphasizing caution and the availability of emergency interventions for potential allergic reactions.