

Title: RABIES PROPHYLAXIS: CURRENT PRACTICE AMONG GOVT. AYUSH MEDICAL OFFICERS OF NORTHERN ODISHA

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Keywords AYUSH MOs, First aid, Prophylaxis

Abstract To assess the knowledge & practice of Govt. AYUSH MOs regarding rabies prophylaxis. To suggest recommendations for proper management of animal bite cases by AYUSH MOs engaged in various Govt. hospital/ dispensaries.

Original Article

Rabies Prophylaxis: Current Practice among Govt. AYUSH Medical Officers of Northern Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Objective: 1. To assess the knowledge & practice of Govt. AYUSH MOs regarding rabies prophylaxis.
2. To suggest recommendations for proper management of animal bite cases by AYUSH MOs engaged in various govt. hospitals/dispensaries.

Period of study: Feb to April 2013

Material & method: This is a cross-sectional study done among the 80 AYUSH MOs working in govt. AYUSH hospitals. A Predesigned & Pretested Questionnaire was used as study Instrument.

Statistical analysis: Simple proportion & percentage and Chi-sq were used.

Results & discussion: Majority (95%) of AYUSH MOs opined that as a first-aid measure it is required to wash the wound with soap & water. Only 47 respondents had the knowledge of application of local virucidal as povidon iodine or 70% alcohol. The study revealed that 7 MOs bandage the wound & 2 MOs stitch the wound but only in severe cases. Majority of the AYUSH MOs knew about the different types of vaccines available (58%-Rabipur, 12%-Verorab) for animal bite cases. 59% knew about the correct schedule, route & site of vaccine administration. Only 20 MOs had the knowledge regarding the different types of RIG & out of them 15 knew about the correct dose, site & method of administration. There is a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the year of experience of MOs & their correct knowledge regarding rabies prophylaxis. 63% of AYUSH MOs give first-aid & then refer the patient to the nearest Govt. hospital (Allopathic) whereas 26% MOs directly refer the patients to the Govt. hospitals without doing any first-aid. Only 5% of MOs practiced newer ARV for PEP & another 5% try to give their medicines.

Key words: AYUSH MOs, First-aid, Prophylaxis

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, rabies has gained public health importance because of its enormous burden in the developing countries. About 17.4 million exposures & 20,000 deaths due to rabies occurs annually in India¹ Rabies though 100% fatal, it is preventable through proper wound care & post exposure prophylaxis. But the knowledge about prevention of rabies among the general public has been observed to be poor^{2,3}. Moreover a majority of animal bite victims seek treatment of quacks, witch doctors & traditional healers before coming to the ARC⁴. The present study will throw light on the current practice of rabies prophylaxis among the Govt. AYUSH MOs.

OBJECTIVE

The present study was undertaken to assess the knowledge of AYUSH MOs & their current practice regarding the management of animal bite cases.

MATERIAL & METHOD

This is a cross-sectional study done among 80 AYUSH MOs working in Govt. AYUSH hospitals in

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northern part of Odisha. The study was done during Feb to April 2013. The MOs were interviewed through a Predesigned & Pretested Questionnaire.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Out of 80 AYUSH MOs interviewed, 38 were homeopathic MOs & rest were Ayurvedic doctors.

Majority (95%) of AYUSH MOs opined that as a first-aid measure it is required to wash the wound with soap & water. 47 MOs had the knowledge about application of local virucidal agents like povidon

Table I
Knowledge about the first-aid in animal bite cases, among the Govt. AYUSH MOs

Advice on First Aid	No(%)
Wash the wound	76 (95%)
Apply Virucidal;	47 (58.75%)
Bandage of wound	7 (8.75%)
Stitching of wound	2 (2.5%)

iodine or 70% alcohol. 7(9%) respondents told that they bandage the wound but 2 MOs opined that stitching of wound is required only in severe cases. The study by S. Bhalla et al⁵ had shown that only 66.6% of the general practitioners (BAMS or RMP) practised cleaning of wound as first-aid measure & 50% dressed the wound.

Majority of the AYUSH MOs knew about the different types of vaccines available (58%-Rabipur, 12%-Verorab) for animal bite cases. Rabipur was the most common ARV known to the AYUSH Mos. Sathpathy DM et al, in their study⁶ had shown that general practitioners also preferred Rabipur over other ARV.

Table 2
Knowledge about the different types of Antirabies vaccine used for rabies prophylaxis

Vaccine Type	No(%)
PCECV(Rabipur)	47 (58%)
PVRV(Verorab/Abhyrab)	9 (11.25%)
HDCV(Rabivax)	11 (13.75%)

Only 20 MOs knew about any type of RIG, out of which 15 knew about Human RIG & only 5 MOS knew about Equine RIG. 59% of the AYUSH MOs had the knowledge about the correct route, site & schedule of Anti rabies Vaccines. When asked about the dose of RIG, only 5 (25%) out of 20 MOs could tell about the correct dose of HRIG & 4 (20%) about the ERIG.

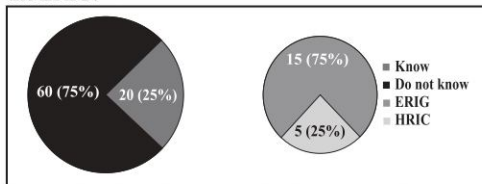
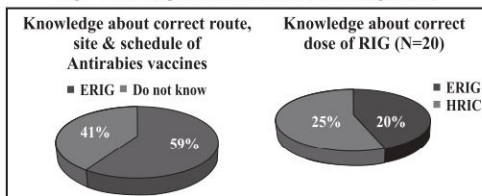


Fig 1 - Knowledge about RIG (Rabies Immunoglobulin)



58 AYUSH MOs have more than 10 years of service experience & rest 22 MOs have the experience of less than 10 years. But 77 % (17) of the MOs having less experience had the correct knowledge about ARV whereas only 51% of the MOs with more than 10 years of experience had the correct knowledge. There is a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the year of experience of MOs & their correct knowledge regarding rabies prophylaxis.

63% of AYUSH MOs give first-aid & then refer the patient to the nearest Govt. hospital (Allopathic) whereas 26% MOs directly refer the patients to the

Table 3
Knowledge about ARV in accordance with years of experience of AYUSH MOs

Years of experience	Knowledge about ARV	No knowledge about ARV	Total
≤ 10 years	17 (77.3%)	5 (22.7%)	22 (100%)
> 10 years	30 (51%)	28 (48.3%)	58 (100%)
Total	47 (58.7%)	33 (41.3%)	80 (100%)

$\chi^2=4.68$; $p < 0.05$

Table 4
Current practice among Govt. AYUSH Mos regarding management of Animal bite cases

Practice	No	%
Give only first aid & then refer the patients to the nearest allopathic hospital	51	63.7
Directly refer the patients to any govt. allopathic hospital	21	26.3
Try to give their medicines	4	5
Give Morden ARV to the animal bite cases	4	5
Total	80	100

Govt. hospitals without doing any first-aid. 5% of MOs give their medicines to animal bite cases. Only 5% of MOs practiced newer ARV for PEP.

CONCLUSION

Though majority of AYUSH MOs had the knowledge about first aid in animal bite cases, not all of them practise the same while attending the cases in their dispensaries. There is apparent lack of knowledge about different ARVs & RIGs available for prophylaxis for rabies & their correct dose, site or route of administration. Frequent On job refresher training of the AYUSH MOs is required to improve their knowledge regarding rabies prophylaxis.

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