

Title: A STUDY ON TIME LAG BETWEEN EXPOSURE AND STARTING OF TREATMENT IN ANIMAL BITE CASES REPORTING TO THE ARC OF SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE, CUTTACK

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Keywords Time Gap, Reason, Animal Bite

Abstract Time of reporting & hence starting the right treatment is a crucial factor in prevention of rabies. This study is conducted to see the cause of time lag between exposure and starting of treatment in animal bite cases reporting to the ARC of SCB Medical College Cuttack.

Original Article

A STUDY ON TIME LAG BETWEEN EXPOSURE AND STARTING OF TREATMENT IN ANIMAL BITE CASES REPORTING TO THE ARC OF SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE CUTTACK.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Time of reporting & hence starting the right treatment is a crucial factor in prevention of rabies.³This study is conducted to see the cause of time lag between exposure & starting of treatment in animal bite cases reporting to the ARC of SCB Medical College Cuttack.

Objectives:

1. To study the time of reporting of animal bite victims to the ARC clinic.
2. To find the reasons for late reporting of animal bite cases to the ARC –OPD.
3. To suggest recommendations to address the issue.

Material Methods:

- Place of Study : Anti rabies clinic , SCB MCH, Cuttack
- Duration of study : April to May 2015
- Study Subject: 148 cases reporting to ARC-OPD in a time gap of more than 24 hrs.
- Study instrument: Predesigned, Pretested questionnaire.
- Study Analysis : SPSS ver.21

Out of all 148 cases, the most common age group of animal bite was 40-49 years 27.02% followed by 10 -19 years 18%. Category III animal bite was 91.9%. Most of the cases 64.9% had reported to the ARC OPD in the time gap of more than 72 hours. The most common cause of delay reporting was other engagement. Moreover, 18.9% bite cases were aware of their arrival in the hospital immediately for vaccination after animal bite

Conclusion : The most common cause of delay was their engagement in other works which was followed by their unawareness about importance of vaccination in time.

Key Words : Time - Gap, Reason, Animal bite

INTRODUCTION

Rabies continues to claim an estimated 20,000 lives annually in India. 95% of the 55,000 global rabies deaths are because of dog bites¹. In India a person is bitten by an animal in every 2 seconds & someone dies from rabies every 30 seconds.² Following bite by suspected rabid animal, the preventive step consists of prompt wound treatment, administration of cell culture vaccine and RIG. Time of reporting & hence starting the right treatment is a crucial factor in prevention of rabies.³This study is conducted to see the cause of

time lag between exposure & starting of treatment in animal bite cases reporting to the ARC of SCB Medical College Cuttack.

OBJECTIVES

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4. To suggest recommendation to address the issue.

Table : 1
Profile of animal bite cases (n - 148)

Sl.No	Patient profile	Number	%
Age Group			
1	0-9	11	7.4
2	10-19	27	18.2
3	20-29	16	10.8
4	30-39	21	14.2
5	40-49	40	27
6	50-59	16	10.8
7	60-69	9	6.1
8	70-79	8	5.5
9	Total	148	100
Sex			
1	Male	104	70.3
2	Female	44	29.7
3	Total	148	100
Residence			
1	Rural	108	72.3
2	Urban	40	27.7
3	Total	148	100
Education			
1	Illiterate	24	16.2
2	Primary	59	40
3	Secondary	38	25.8
4	College	27	18
5	Total	148	100
Income			
1	>10000	19	12.8
2	5000-10000	37	25.1
3	<5000	92	62.1
Occupation			
1	Unskilled	74	49.8
2	Semi-skilled	50	33.8
3	Skilled	18	12.2
4	Professional	6	4.2
5	Total	148	100

MATERIAL METHODS

The study was conducted in the Anti rabies clinic, SCB MCH, Cuttack. During the period 1st April to 30th May 2015. Total of 148 cases reporting in the time gap of more than 24 hour in the ARV OPD during this period were taken as study subjects. The data was collected in a Predesigned, Pretested questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS ver.21.

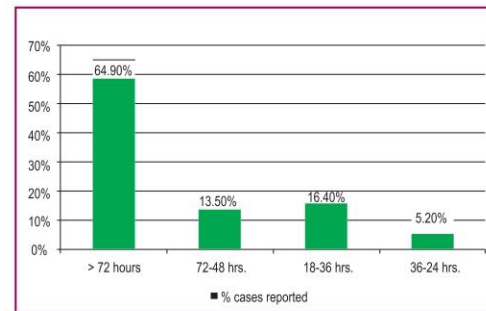
Observations & Discussions

Out of all 148 cases 27 % were in the age group of 40 -49 years. Most of the delayed reporting cases

were male 70.3%. People coming from the rural area were 70.3% followed by urban are 27.7%. Education status was upto primary education in 40% of the cases. In a study conducted by Sampath. G says education & awareness plays an important role in reporting of cases⁴. Monthly earning was less than 5000 per month in 62.1% cases. Majority of them 49.8% were unskilled workers.

Distribution of cases according to time lag.

However, 64.9% had reported to the ARC OPD in the time gap of more than 72 hours, 13.5% cases within 72-48 hours, 16.2% cases within 48-36



hours and 5.4% of the cases after 24 hours. In a study conducted by Renu Bedi et al also found that knowing that the disease is fatal still about 49.8% of the animal bite victims reported after 24 hours⁵. In a similar study conducted by Khokkar et al found that 31.03% cases reported after 24 hours⁶. From among all the case reporting late to the ARV OPD most of them 91.9% belonged to category III followed by 8.1% belonging to Category II. Out of the total 148 cases 72.8% cases had received first aid

Table : 2
Reason for the delay in reporting to ARC for Rabies PEP. (n - 148)

Sl.No	Reasons for the delay	Number	%
1	Busy in other works	88	59.5
2	Traditional healer	15	10.1
3	Due to other illness	12	8.1
4	No self awareness	28	18.9
5	Long Distance	5	3.4
6	Total	148	100

Most of the cases, 59.5% could not report to the ARC clinic immediately after the animal bite as they were busy in other work, 18.9% of the cases were not aware that vaccine has to be taken as early as possible. 10.1% cases had visited traditional healer. 8.1% of the cases could not come in time to the ARC OPD as they were suffering from other illness. 3.4% were coming from long distance so they could not report to the ARC OPD. In a study conducted by D. Shobha Malini et al majority of the cases 62% reported late because the animal was alive & looking healthy & traceable³.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The most common cause of delay was their engagement in other works which was followed by their unawareness about importance of vaccination in time. Poor educational status and Poverty was also a contributing factor for delay in reporting. Although, the awareness about the need for vaccination, after animal bites for preventing rabies has been established in the community, but the concept that it is required to be started as soon as

possible after the animal bite, has not been created till now. Awareness has to be created among the population that vaccination has to be done immediately following animal bite to prevent rabies. The importance of timely reporting of animal bite case to the ARC has to be discussed while treating cases of animal bites. Capacity Building and training of the grass root level workers regarding importance of early reporting & prompt treatment of animal bite cases is the need of the hour.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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