AUTOPSY STUDY OF RENAL LESIONS IN SNAKE BITE CASES

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Snake bite is the significant health problem in India, particularly in many rural regions. In general, the bites of snakes are due to the lower epidemiological profile and they are caused by non-poisonous snake bites, dry bites and envenomation. Venom is the saliva of snake ejected during the act of biting from the modified parotid glands. It can be neurotoxic, vasculotoxic in action.

KEYWORDS: Snake bite, renal lesions, neurotoxicity

OBJECTIVE: To know the epidemiological profile of snake bite cases to know the spectrum of histopathological changes of kidney in snake bite cases and to analyse and compare the renal lesions among different snake bites to find the major causes of death in snake bites.

METHODS: A descriptive study was carried out in 107 patients conducted at Madurai Medical College & Hospital, Madurai from the period of April 2017 to March 2018. Out of 107 patients proportionate samples was selected based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

FINDINGS: Out of the 107 patients, 49 (45%) were males and 58 (54.3%) were females. The bites occurred from the month of July - November with winter, 51 (48%) and rainy seasons, 34 (32%) bites. Snake bites were common among agricultural labourer, 63 (59%) when compared to non-agricultural labourer, 19 (18%) with bite marks mainly on lower limb in patients. Similarly, deaths were reported to the hospital, who failed to receive ASV and with those patients who reported late to the hospital with
a mortality rate, 81%. Other findings like fang marks, which was recorded in 62% of patients, along with local findings like pain and swelling 76 (43%), cellulitis, 76 (43%), gross findings and histopathological findings were recorded.

**CONCLUSION:** The rationalisation of anti snake venom therapy can be done to prevent ASV related to kidney injury. Incidence of renal lesions in neurotoxic snake bites suggests a strict monitoring of renal parameters and timely intervention of treatment measures such as dialysis even in neurotoxic snake bite. Also added findings in other systems particularly CNS also points out to a major spectrum of lesion that should be diagnosed and treated early.

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