

Epidemiological study snakebites referred to Imam Khomeini Hospital of Ardabil city during 2008-2013

Abstract:

Introduction: *There are more than 3,500 species of snake in the world, of which at least 10% of them are toxic. Average annual incidence of snakebite in the world is between 5.5 to 1.2 million and at least 125,000 of them are fatal. In Iran, 83 snake species has been observed which 45 species are non-venomous, 27 species are toxic, and 11 semi-toxic among them. About 4500-11000 snakebites occur annually in Iran and a small part of it is fatal. Snakebite effects can be divided into 2 groups, local and systemic. Since the snake bites can cause immediate death in patients obtaining accurate knowledge of the subject and method of treatment seems to be necessary.*

Materials and Methods: *This study is a cross-sectional one. Our study population included all snakebite patients who were admitted to the Imam Khomeini hospital of Ardebil. Finally, outcomes organized in the form of tables and graphs and presented in a comprehensive report.*

Results: *The results showed that among the 67 victims of snake bites s, 51 were men and the rest of the victims were women. The average age of the patients was, $35/6 \pm 16/95$ years. Most snake bites were occurred in rural areas. most of the snakebites was occurred within 12-16 o'clock (noon). Most stings were related to the lower limbs, and 66 of the 67 cases were injured by a viper snake species, 1 casualty was caused by a cobra. Victims were hospitalized for an average of 5.4 days. all patients, showed symptoms of pain, swelling, erythema and ecchymosis. 27 people were faint. Nausea and vomiting were two other common symptoms. Average antidote used in patients was 5.1 vials.*

Conclusions: *Possible risk factors include male gender and young age. It was also found that the stings in the morning and noon reach the peak. These reports are all in rural areas and mostly occurred in the warm months. Snakebites in rural parts around Ardebil an ongot were prevalent. severe side effects were rare, but the incidence of other complications was common among the victims.*

Keywords: *Snakebite, Poison, Viper, Venom*