

Complications Of Cat Bite Injury Involving The Hand At Serdang Hospital.

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INTRODUCTION:

Cat bites were frequently presumed insignificant in our society, however their sharp teeth penetrate deeper, causing inoculation of bacteria and higher incidence of infection compared to other animals' bites.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

A prospective cohort study was done on 26 patients who were admitted for cat bites in the hand in Serdang Hospital from January 2016 to December 2017. Demographic data and treatment details were analyzed. *QuickDASH* scores were done upon completed treatment.

RESULTS:

There was equal 50% male and female, mean age 40.5 years (median 37.5). 57.7% were bitten by their pet. They took an average of 15.0 days to seek treatment in hospital. Only 11.5% of them seek treatment immediately in the hospital, whereas 19.2% did not until presented late, 69.2% took oral antibiotics prior to presentation. The average length of stay was 5.4 days. 65.4% required surgical intervention. 85.7% of wound cultures yielded no growth, whereas 14.3% growth *Staph. aureus*. Antibiotics given were Augmentin (92.3%), Cloxacillin (3.9%), cefuroxime (3.9%). Only 8 patients (30.8%) healed without complication. There was no correlation between blood infection markers, Diabetes mellitus with complication (Spearman's correlation $p > 0.05$). Average follow-up was 7.8 weeks. Average *QuickDASH* scores obtained upon completed follow-up was 4.59.

Table 1. Complications of cat bites in hand.

COMPLICATIONS	NO. OF CASES (%)
ABSCCESS	7 (26.9)
CUTANEOUS SPOROTRICHOSIS	6 (23.1)
CELLULITIS	4 (15.4)
SEPTIC ARTHRITIS	3 (11.5)
FINGER STIFFNESS	3 (11.5)
SUPPURATIVE FLEXOR TENOSYNOVITIS	2 (7.7)
CHRONIC ULCER	2 (7.7)
SEPTIC ARTHRITIS WITH SECONDARY OSTEOARTHRTIS	1 (3.8)
SEPSIS WITH THROMBOCYTOPAENIA	1 (3.8)
LACERATED EXTENSOR TENDON	1 (3.8)

DISCUSSIONS:

There was a significant delay in seeking treatment after cat bites, leading to high complication rates. Pre-admission oral antibiotics could be the cause of negative cultures. *QuickDASH* scores reflected patients have good functional outcome.

CONCLUSION:

The implication of cat bites in hand can be debilitating and often underestimated. Public awareness and early surgical debridement is the key to effective treatment.

REFERENCES:

1. DN Love et.al. Bacteriological warfare amongst cats: what have we learned about cat bite infections? *Vet Microbiol.* 2000 Jun 1;74(3):179-93.