

Are Cats Becoming A Dangerous Pet? A Study Of Incidence Of Cat Bites In Hospital Serdang

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INTRODUCTION:

Cat bites were mostly unreported in Malaysia. Recently there was an increasing incidence of cat bites resulting in patients seeking treatment in hospital. This study aims to analyze the incidence of cat bite cases in Hospital Serdang.

METHODS:

This is a retrospective study analyzing the incidence of patients admitted to orthopaedic wards in Hospital Serdang due to cat bite in 2016 and 2017. The length of stay and the number of days delayed in seeking treatment was analyzed.

RESULTS:

Table 1 showed total cases, average delay in seeking treatment and average length of stay in ward for year 2016 and 2017.

Year	Total cases	Average length of delay in seeking treatment (days)	Average length of stay in ward (days)
2016	11	9.3	5
2017	10	0.9	4.2

Table 1

DISCUSSIONS:

The incidence of cat bite in 2016 and 2017 was about the same. There is no recorded statistics of cat bite incidence in Malaysia and no proper guideline to manage it as compared to dog bite. Most of the cases were started on IV Augmentin as suggested by National Antibiotic Guideline 2014⁽¹⁾. Decision to debride was made clinically in each case⁽²⁾. Most of the patients in this study did not progress to develop complication but we lack the long term follow up in each cases. 2017 showed shorter delay in seeking treatment with shorter length of stay compared to 2016. The

increasing incidence of dog bite recently and the media coverage creating awareness about Rabies may be a reason for the patients to seek treatment as sooner.

CONCLUSION:

Although the cases for 2016 and 2017 are about the same, we can observe that more patients seek early treatment. This shows better awareness in public. We are suggesting for a better guideline to manage the cases and also guideline to vaccinate cats in Malaysia.

REFERENCES:

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