

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE:

A high incidence of snake bite envenomation has been reported in rural india.This study was conducted to assess the clinico epidemiological profile of snake bite cases admitted in a tertiary care hospital in south india .

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This is a descriptive type of study included snake bite cases in paediatric age group and conducted for a period of one year from July 2015 to June 2016.Data about age ,sex , clinical manifestations, complications and outcome were collected and analysed.

FINDINGS:

The study included 54 cases of snake bite victims.the majority were boys(64.8 %).The common age group affected was 5-12 years.Lower extremities were the most common site of bite(85.2 %).Most common identified species were viper(20.4 %).The most common symptoms were cellulitis (22 %).Krait bite manifested as neurotoxic required ventilatory support .Most common non poisonous snake is rattle snake.Reactions to antisnake venom was observed in 18.5% cases.The case fatality rate was 11.1%.

CONCLUSION:

Snake bite remains a major public health problem. Knowledge must be imparted regarding prevention of snake bites,appropriate first aid ,importance of effective treatment .Considering the magnitude of this problem a national programme for this issue is needed.

KEY WORDS:

Snake bite, Public health, South india