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 rattlesnake. Reactions to antivenom 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