

A RARE CAUSE OF FOREARM INJURY: SNAKEBITE BY NON-VENOMOUS MALAYAN PYTHON

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Introduction: Snakebites are considered a neglected public health issue, especially by non-venomous snake. There is lack of consensus on the management of snake bite wound. We would present this case report of a non-venomous python's bite injury to highlight on the importance of early intervention to avoid harmful complications.

Discussion: A 43-year-old gentleman, who was previously well, presented to our hospital after a snake bite. The incident happened in the early morning when the patient was lying on a field. A 2-meter long Malayan Python had ambushed and bit over his left forearm. Post bite, he immediately pulled his forearm off and compressed the wound with cloth. He was seen in emergency department three hours after the incident. Examination revealed multiple laceration wounds, with the largest measuring 4x5cm over volar-ulnar aspect of left forearm. The compartment of forearm was soft. There were no neurovascular abnormalities detected. His hand function post injury was intact. Anti-tetanus and intravenous Augmentin were given. Intra- operatively, the wound was minimally contaminated with the antebrachial fascia breached. The muscles were healthy with no neurovascular injury noted. Wound edges were debrided and wound bed were curetted. Post-operatively, the patient was clinically well and discharged on Day 3 of admission. He was prescribed with one-week course of oral Augmentin and were asked to get daily normal saline with Bactigrass dressing over the wounds at the local clinic. At 1 month, his wound and completely healed with no sign of infection.

Conclusion: Despite being non-venomous snake, Malayan python bite warrant a prophylactic antibiotic and early surgical debridement to improve the patient outcome. REFERENCES: Ismail A.K.(2015) Snakebite and Envenomation Management in Malaysia. In: Gopalakrishnakone P., Faiz A., Fernando R., Gnanathasan C., Habib A., Yang CC. (eds) Clinical Toxinology in Asia Pacific and Africa. Toxinology, vol 2. Springer, Dordrecht