

PATIENT FROM THE TWILIGHT SAGA?: A CASE REPORT OF NASTY HUMAN BITE

Sree Raja Lakshmy Chandra Sekaran¹, Low Chin Aun¹, Muhammad Azrin Mohd Asihin¹, Darshan Krishnan¹, Shangeetha Tharmalingam¹, Nur Rahimah Abdul Rahim¹

¹Hospital Shah Alam

Introduction: Bite injuries are injuries where the teeth have broken the skin barrier allowing external insults, human bites are less common than domestic animal bites in Malaysia, In this paper, we report a case of an upper limb injury inflicted by a human bite to our frontliner.

Discussion: A 25-years-old male doctor from the emergency department was referred to orthopedic department after being bitten by a patient in the Emergency Department. His wound was promptly irrigated and was given anti-tetanus toxoid (ATT) injection and IV Augmentin. Clinical examination revealed an elliptical bite mark of the upper and lower arch of the teeth over the flexor aspect of the left forearm with diffuse swelling and surrounding bruises. Plain radiographs were normal. Intraoperatively, the bite depth was up to the subcutaneous fat tissue. The wound thoroughly and meticulously debrided. Daily dressing was performed. He was discharged with no complications. Human bites are known for their propensity in causing infection. Common examples found in human bite wounds include *Streptococcus anginosus*, *Staphylococcus* and *Eikenella corrodens*. A superficial bite mark appearance may be masking ongoing fulminant infection in the deep tissues. The main culprit are often anaerobes that flourish in the low redox environment of tartar that lies between teeth and areas of gingiva. Immediate debridement of wound to reduce the bacterial insults is indicated. Antibiotics given should cover common pathogens such as *Streptococcus anginosus*, *Staphylococcus* and *Eikenella* and provide broad anaerobic cover. In vitro studies demonstrated that amoxicillin clavulanate and moxifloxacin demonstrated excellent effectiveness against the isolates.

Conclusion: A proper management of human bite requires early recognition, early wound cleansing or irrigation, exploration and repair of the surrounding structures during debridement, allowing delayed primary closure and empirical antibiotics should be given as a treatment of human bite.