

Oral Presentation - 25

Epidemiological Profile of Snakebites in Iran, 2009-2010

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Abstract

Objectives: Snakebite is one of the significant health problems in the tropical and subtropical regions. It is a common medical emergency in Iran and the current study was conducted to characterize related risk factors and ultimately aimed at minimizing snake bite accidents by preventive efforts.

Methods: This research was a descriptive retrospective study. Data were collected by gathering snakebite records of 42 Medical Sciences universities in Iran from March 2009 to March 2010. Information included: age and sex of the victim, region of incident, site of bite and outcome.

Results: The results showed that the majority of snake bite patients were male (66.1%). The age distribution of patients indicated that the greatest rate of snakebites occurred among the 25-34 years old group. Of the 5172 snakebites, 2851 (54.7%) were observed on legs, 12019 (38.9%) on the hand and 303 (5.8%) on the head and trunk and 20 (0.3%) at no identified site. The average incidence of snakebite was estimated 6.9 per 100,000. However, the highest affected cases were observed in the Semnan province and Rafsanjan city and the lowest in Sabzevar city with incidences of 111.6 and 0 per 100000 individuals, respectively. The mortality and recovery rates of cases with anti-venom were evaluated: 0.12%, 99.88% and without: 0.4%, 99.6% respectively.

Conclusions: Areas in provinces of Iran with high incidence of snakebites should have the necessary preventive programs to minimize the incidence.