

## Preliminary Investigation on the Prevalence of Animal Bites In Patients who visit the Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa

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### Abstract

Animal bite injuries to human have received much attention for last two decades in Sri Lanka. In this view a study was conducted with the objective to investigate the prevalence of animal bites in patients visited the Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa. Pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered to gather information from patients. Socio-demographic factors, factors related to bite and factors related to animals were collected. The results revealed that animal bite recorded higher in Manmunai North Divisional Secretariat division (29.5%). Comparatively more number of males (52.8%) affected with animal bites and majority of affected individuals were Hindus (80.6%) and 47% had primary and secondary education. Predominant bite site was leg (73.6%). Among the victims observed 70% had superficial wound. In terms of bite category the minor exposure was predominant (70.1%). The victims were mainly bitten by dogs (84.1%). Around 85% of animal bites were caused by domestic animals. Vaccines were not administered to majority of animals (93.2%). After biting a victim 88.1% of animals were alive and it happened under animal's normal behavior. Most of the affected individuals (93.3%) followed proper wound care management and awareness on animal bite was moderate (54.8%). Around 54% of patients delayed the initiation of treatment by 10-12 hours after bite. Two-side intradermal vaccine applied for 69% of the affected individuals while 28.4% were treated with anti-rabies serum. The results of the study further revealed that significant relationship ( $P < 0.05$ ) was observed between root cause induced to bitten & status of animal after bite, awareness & D.S. divisions, animal vaccination & D.S. divisions and animal types & type of wound. It was concluded that that there is a need for proper awareness and vaccination to be implemented in some D.S. divisions.

**Keywords:** Animal bite, awareness, serum; vaccine

