



APPARENT EXPOSURES TO RABIES AND ADMINISTERING ANTI RABIES VACCINES IN GENERAL HOSPITAL HAMBANTOTA

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ABSTRACT

Anti-Rabies Vaccination bears a huge cost to the health sector. This study was conducted to describe apparent exposures to rabies and practice of administering anti rabies vaccines in General Hospital Hambantota. A descriptive cross sectional design was at GH Hambantota by including patients who attend with suspected Rabies exposures. A structured pretested interviewer administered questionnaire and a data sheet were used as study instruments. Variables were selected by reviewing Circular on Post Exposure Prophylaxis for Rabies issued by Ministry of Health. Mean age was 41.2 with SD of 15.5 and majority were males (54.7%). In 71.2% of instances dogs were responsible for bites while cats were responsible in only 26.7%. In 54.4% of incidents the animal had an owner and 68.0 % were in observable status. But majority were not vaccinated or not known (72.8 %). Most of bites were happened in public roads (45.6%). Also 63.7% were categorized as non-provocative. Being a female ($p = <0.001$) and age between 21 – 30 ($p = <0.001$) were significantly associated with an incident other than a dog, usually a cat. Most of dog bites were occurred in public roads ($p = <0.001$). Among all presentations 47% were not given Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) or Anti Rabies Serum (ARS). Out of the rest 38% were given ARV and 15% were given ARS. Majority who had suspected exposures were males. Dogs were responsible for most of incidents. Among 54.4% incidents the animal had an owner but majority were not vaccinated against rabies or not known the vaccination status. Majority of bites were happened in public roads (Among all presentations 47% ($n=187$) were not given Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) or Anti Rabies Serum (ARS). Out of the rest 38% ($n=149$) were given ARV and 15% ($n=61$) were given ARS.

Keywords: Rabies, Anti Rabies Vaccination, exposure to Rabies