

Diagnostic Dilemma in a Case of Multiple Bite Marks- A Case Report

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Abstract: Insect bites among farmers in India usually occur on the lower limb due to not wearing sandals. The poisonous effects of insect bites can range from mild skin reaction to life-threatening injury. A 60 year old man, agriculture in profession, with no previous history of co morbidities, found dead in his agriculture field in the early morning. Deceased was moderately built and nourished. Deceased body was brought to Post-Mortem at Department Of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, BG Nagara, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya district. In conclusion the early morning, deceased went outside of his house for passing stools at his field. At that time he was bitten by haemotoxic snake on his left leg just above the lateral malleolus. Since he was in bare foot, poison has spread all over the body leading to hemorrhagic shock and death. When his body was lying on the ground, there was oozing of blood from his left leg which has attracted many ants leading to multiple bite marks on his both the lower limb.

Keywords: ant bite, snake bite, bleeding, shock.

INTERODUCTION:

Insect bites among farmers in India usually occur on the lower limb due to inadequate footwear protection. The poisonous effects of insect bites can range from mild skin reaction to life-threatening consequences. Ants belong to the family called Hymenoptera. The majority of ant bite causes only a local reaction but many poisonous insects do account for the largest number of poisoning deaths in the India. The majority of deaths from bee and wasp stings are due to hypersensitivity reactions, but death can also result from severe poisoning. Most bee and wasp stings result in sudden pain, inflammation and edema. Numerous stings can result in severe immune reaction with symptoms including nausea, vomiting, headache, fever, syncope, seizure, and acute renal failure and anaphylaxis which often lead to fatal consequences [1, 2, 3].

Snakebite is an injury caused by the bite of a poisonous or non-poisonous snake. It often results in two puncture wounds from the snake fangs. The Hemotoxic venom may cause bleeding, kidney failure, tissue death around the bite, and neurotoxic venom directly leads to death by respiratory failure. The results depend on the type of venomous snake, the area of the body involved, the amount of toxin injected, and the health status of the person. Problems are often worse in children and immune-compromised people [4, 5, 6, 7].

CASE REPORT:

A 60 year old man, agriculture in profession, with no previous history of co morbidities, was found dead in his agriculture field in the early morning. Deceased was moderately built and nourished. Deceased body was brought to Post-Mortem at Department Of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, BG Nagara, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya district.

POSTMORTEM FINDINGS:

External examination:

On examination of mouth and nostrils, there were no signs of irritating smell. On complete examination of the body, we found multiple unknown bite marks on both the lower limbs. On further examination, we found that all the above said bite marks are superficial in nature, except 2 bite marks which were found just above the left lateral malleolus, which were muscle deep in nature. Oozing of blood was more in these 2 wounds compared to other bite marks. Rest of the findings in other parts of the body was unremarkable.

Internal examination of the body:

Eyes: sub-conjunctival hemorrhage found on both eyes.

Mouth: bleeding in the floor of mouth.

On opening the skull, we found petechial and diffuse intracranial hemorrhages.

On opening the chest and abdominal cavity, hemorrhages into lungs and bowel was found.

On further dissection of all the organs shows severe congestion.

Blood and viscera were forwarded to Forensic Science Laboratory, at Bangalore, but it came negative for Organo-phosphorus, Aluminum Phosphide and alcohol.

CONCLUSION:

In the early morning, deceased went outside of his house for passing stools at his field. At that time he was bitten by haemotoxic snake on his left leg just above the lateral malleolus. Since he was in bare foot, poison had caused systemic envenomation leading to hemorrhagic shock and death. When his body was lying on the ground, there was oozing of blood from his left leg which has attracted many ants leading to multiple bite marks on his both the lower limb.

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