

# Severe tetanus in Open Radius Ulnar Fracture

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## INTRODUCTION

Tetanus in fracture cases became scarce now since high vaccination coverage. However, there are some isolated cases among unvaccinated population.

## REPORT

A 5 years old child fell from 1 metre tree sustained open fracture of the right radius and ulnar. The wound measures 1x1cm over the right forearm with deformity. Parents seek traditional ailment but developed fever on day 2 post trauma and at day 5 there was purulent discharge from the wound which makes them seek medical attention.

Day 6 post trauma only then he proceeded with Wound exploration, debridement and intramedullary K-Wire. Day 5 of trauma His bilateral upper limbs became stiff and painful occasionally. Frequency of these occurrences increased while child remain conscious.

Then developed episodes of localised flexion of the left shoulder with left elbow extended followed by pronator of forearm and flexion of finger. Since his neurological system was compromised, CT brain done with unremarkable findings. Patient then sedated with midazolam and diazepam. Presentation progresses with bilateral lower limb became jerky and stiff. Clostridium Tetanii was suspected as the culprit. Calculated Dakar score was 5/6. ATT was given at the wound site.

Intraoperative culture also taken alongside blood culture which resulted as Klebsiella aerogenes and E. Coli. Total white count was 16 with CRP 150. Two days post op he deteriorated further with episodic respiratory arrest. As respiratory failure is impending he then sedated and intubated and transferred to Paediatrics ICU

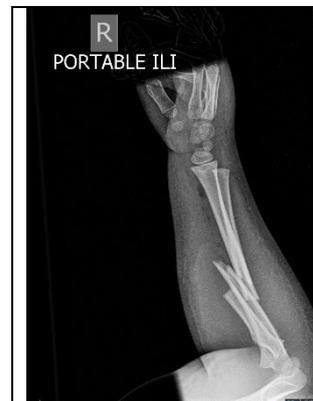


Figure 1 X-ray radius-ulna during patient's first presentation



Figure 2 X-ray radius-ulna after CMR and above the elbow slab



Figure 3 X-ray radius-ulna after intramedullary K-wire

## CONCLUSION

The reported incidence showing diminishing near eradication trend from 0.08 per 100 000 population in 1988 to 0.06 in 1998. Clostridium Tetanii can be negative in laboratory and radiography tests. Clinical findings in comparison to literature could help diagnosing it early.

## REFERENCES

Academy of Medicine Malaysia, Childhood immunisation, Dec 2004, <https://www.moh.gov.my/moh/attachments/3934.pdf>