

# The Prevalence of Animal Bite in SibU during Covid Era

Kong IH, Chieng ZL, Ngo PE, Tan HP

Orthopedic Department, Hospital SibU, Sarawak, Malaysia.

## INTRODUCTION

Rabies is one of the zoonosis viral disease, which is still the most important threats to public health in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Rabies outbreak was reported in Sarawak since 2017.

## OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the prevalence of animal bite in SibU during Covid Era from January 2020 to December 2021.

## METHOD

This is a retrospective study where data was collected from the operative logbook in operation theatre. The collected data represent the total number of animal bites among the resident in SibU, who needs surgical intervention, such as wound debridement.

## RESULT

In year 2020, there are total 66 cases that underwent surgery after animal bite. This number was increased to 71 cases in year 2021. Majority of cases showing the involved animals are dogs, followed by cats and wild animals.

Most of the incidents were unprovoked. The common body part that involved is the upper limb with sustained laceration or abrasion wound. All patients received rabies vaccination upon admission while waiting for surgery.



Figure 2: Animal bite injuries.

## DISCUSSION

Animal bites possesses public health problem in urban area. Majority of victim are engaged in outdoor occupational activity. In order to reduce the mortality, vaccination is needed for all indicated patients. Hence, the requirement of huge volume of anti-rabies serum will indirectly increase the cost management of animal bite cases.

Besides, there is a need to immunize the pets and control the stray animals in urban area. Public educational health programmes should be conducted more frequently in society to create awareness regarding the dangers of animal bite, and avoid contact with stray animals, especially dogs.

## CONCLUSION

Animal bite injuries are an important cause of morbidity and mortality around the globe and have a significant public health burden. In SibU, animal bite injuries considered high, and rabies remains as a neglected disease.

## REFERENCE

1. Pattanayak S et al. *Int Surg J.* 2017 Oct;4(10):3470-3473

Year	2020	2021
Number of cases (Patient)	66	71

Table 1: Number of animal bite injuries.