

A Dog Bite That Fractured The Hand That Feeds It

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INTRODUCTION:

Dogs are common household pets. They pose as a frequent cause of injury to their owners. However, dog bites that resulted in fracture are relatively uncommon.¹ We report a case of a dog bite that caused an open fracture of proximal phalanx of right index finger.

REPORT:

53-year-old healthy lady presented with an unprovoked dogbite injury over her right hand. Post-bite she suffered open wound and deformity over her right index finger.

There were two bites wound over her right index finger. The wound appeared to be deep and the underlying bone exposed. Right hand x-ray shows a comminuted fracture shaft of proximal phalanx of right index finger. Rabies Immunoglobulin and IV Augmentin was administered in view of the severity of wound and rabies pandemic in SibU area.

A wound debridement and K-wiring of proximal phalanx of right index finger was done.

Dog bite is a common injury in Malaysia with an estimated of 71,045 incidents between 2017 - 2020. However, dog bite resulting in fracture or dislocation only compromised 0.4% of the total dog bites²

Dog jaws are known to be able to exert large amount of crushing force which can lead to massive soft tissue and bone injuries. Canine jaws can have a bite force of up to 31,790kPa with a significant potential for tissue damage.³



Figure 1 :
volar
aspect right
hand



Figure 2:
Dorsal
aspect right
hand



Figure 3: Right
hand x ray

CONCLUSION:

A patient presented with a dog bite with significant soft tissue injury should be suspected and evaluated for fracture even though it is an uncommon occurrence.

REFERENCES:

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