

A case report of management of snake's injury in captivity

P.A. Raut, V.G.Sonkhusale, L.A.Khan, M.K. Nakade and A.M.Bodkhe

Pet clinic and care centre, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Introduction

A common cobra scientifically known as *Naja naja*. At many times the reptiles suffer from multiple injuries as they are frequently exposed to uneven things while crawling on the ground. Surgery may be necessary to minimize the disfiguring effect of such injuries. These injuries are easily avoidable.

Case History, Treatment and Discussion

The snake was spectacle cobra age around four year with wound in lumbar region. It measure about 3.5 feet in length and found very deliberated injured in condition with piercing wound, was brought by snake catcher due to accident via running vehicle on road. Physical examination indicated good body condition and was active and alert. Wound was fresh with no apparent contamination. The cobra was sedated using injection ketamine 20 mg/kg body weight IM, and the head was mechanically restraint by snake holder throughout the period of treatment. Wound was clean with liquid chlorhexidine 0.2%. Gaping wound was sutured using chromic catgut 1-0 in simple interrupted fashion. Normal saline solution 20 ml was given for two days subcutaneously. A course of antibiotic, Amikacin sulphate @ 0. 2mg /kg was given IM for 3 days and wound dressing was done on every alternate day and an antiseptic spray was also used. Following 8 days of the therapy, the wound become dry and cured. The snake was then released in to Gorewada forest, Nagpur.

Chromic catgut has been used frequently in reptilian patient. Because reptilian heterophils might lack many protolytic enzyme and the absorption of chromic gut depend on proteolysis, this absorption is uncertain in reptiles, other suture material not dependent on proteolysis i.e polyglycolicacid, polyglactine 910 , polypropylene and polydioxanone should be used (Bennett, 1989). Balanced electrolyte solution can be given subcutaneously to promote renal excretion of some agent and to aid in maintaining adequate hydration (Frye,1981).The injection amikacin was found to be effective antimicrobial agent for combating bacterial infection and regup early healing(Mader, *et al.*, 1985). Antiseptic spray like lidocaine , cetrimide , polyvinylpoymerase was useful for snakes injuries (Rosenthal ,K. 1987).

References

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