

### **Snake Bite in Children, Tehran-Iran 1993-2003**

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**Background :** Snakebite is an emergency condition with high mortality & morbidity in children. This study designed to describe cases of snakebites in children admitted in Loghman Hakim Hospital in Tehran. **Methods :** It was a retrospective study of all children admitted after snakebite in Loghman Hakim Hospital from 1993 to 2003.General characteristics, species of the snake, localization of the bite, clinical & laboratory findings, treatment approaches ,complications and prognosis were evaluated. **Results :** A total of 31 snakebited children (mean age  $5.1 \pm 2.2$  years; 42% were 1-5 years) were investigated. The male to female ratio was 1.8. 60% of bites occurred in summer months & the lower extremities were the most common site of bites. Local manifestations such as pain(100%) & swelling (95%) were the most common clinical manifestations compatible with viper snakes .Most of our patients had moderate or sever (90%)envonoumation . For most of our patients incorrect actions such as ice or thigh tourniquet were done before admitting. Prolonged PT in 74% of patients were seen without significant bleeding except from the site of bite. 96% of patients received 3-6 vials of antivenom without any problem. Fortunately there were no mortality or significant morbidity except a finger amputation in one patient & massive skin necrosis in the otherone. The mean hospital stay time was  $4.8 \pm 2.3$  day. **Conclusions :** Snakebite in children in Tehran presented with local manifestations that we can lower its mortality and complications with appropriate and proper management.