

# EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORD AND CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF 250 TICK BITE CASES IN THE CURRENT YEAR: EXPERIENCE FROM A HOSPITAL UNIT

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## **Introduction:**

Tick bites represent a significant public health concern, with increased incidence during warm months. Ticks may transmit various pathogens, including *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Rickettsia* spp., and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, responsible for diseases such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis. Early recognition, safe removal, and risk assessment are key to preventing complications.

## **Aim:**

This study aims to document and analyze tick bite cases recorded during the current year, evaluating removal techniques, clinical features, and therapeutic management.

## **Materials and Methods:**

A retrospective analysis was conducted on 250 patients presenting to the Emergency Department with tick bites over a one-month period. Demographics, bite location, attachment duration, removal method, presence of local or systemic manifestations, prophylactic antibiotic use, and final outcomes were recorded.

## **Results:**

Of the 250 cases, 56% involved males and 44% females, with a mean age of 45 years. Ticks were removed in all cases using sterile fine-tipped forceps, applying steady traction at the base of the mouthparts without local substances. In 12% of cases, a small part of the tick remained, necessitating surgical removal. Local reactions were observed in 68% of patients, migratory erythema in 7%, and mild systemic symptoms (fever, malaise) in 10%. Prophylactic doxycycline was administered in 30% of cases. No severe complications or seroconversions were reported.

## **Conclusions:**

Prompt and safe tick removal is crucial for reducing the risk of pathogen transmission.

The increased incidence of cases this year underscores the need for ongoing healthcare professional training and public education on prevention, recognition, and proper management of tick bites.

