

# DOG BITE INJURIES: A TWO-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 120 CASES IN A RURAL HOSPITAL

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## Introduction:

• Dog bites represent a considerable public health concern worldwide, ranging from minor soft tissue injuries to severe and potentially life-threatening complications such as sepsis or rabies transmission. Timely and appropriate management is crucial to prevent adverse outcomes, while preventive strategies remain equally important at the community level.

## Aim:

• The aim of the study was a retrospective review and analyze dog bite injuries managed in the Emergency Department of a rural hospital over a two-year period (2023-2025), with a focus on demographic distribution, anatomical location, clinical severity, therapeutic interventions and patient outcomes.

## Material & Methods:

• A total of 120 cases of dog bite injuries were retrospectively evaluated. Data collected included patient age, sex, site of injury, complications, management strategies, and outcomes.

• Statistical analysis emphasized the frequency of secondary infections and the need for surgical intervention.

## Results:

The majority of victims were children and young adults. Extremities and the face were the most frequently affected anatomical sites. Secondary wound infections were documented in 30% of cases, and 15% of patients required surgical management. All patients received appropriate wound care, tetanus prophylaxis, and rabies vaccination when indicated.

## Conclusions:

Dog bites, though often underestimated, carry significant health risks. The findings of this study highlight the necessity of standardized management protocols and prompt intervention to reduce complications. Preventive measures, including community education, responsible pet ownership, and systematic canine vaccination programs, are essential to lowering both the incidence and severity of dog bite injuries.

