



Treatment of Naja Naja (King cobra) Snakebites in Tribal Areas of Adilabad Distric, India, by Hakim

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Abstract

A direct interview was conducted and collected the information from the Naja Naja snake bitten victims and the curing processes by the Hakim of Adilabad forest. The victim of snakebite mainly depend on Hakim that is traditional healers, for the treatment, may be due to the government health centers are not within the reach and lack of transport. Different snakebites have different symptoms and their treatments also varie. The tribal people prefer traditional herbal plants for the treatment rather than the allopathy medicine. The cure for the snakebite is 100% without any side effects. The different snakes bites have different symptoms, different treatment and different dosages of medicine.

Keywords: Naja Naja snakebite treatment, Herbal plant, Hakim.

Introduction

Ethnobotanical studies were carried out in Adilabad forest which is dominated by tribal people. Mubeen Rizwana et. al.¹. have studied the medicinally important plants of Adilabad district²⁻⁴. have published on the medicinal plants of Adilabad district. The tribal people of Adilabad are Erukakas, Gonds, Koyas, and Banjaras. In our study importance was given for the Naja Naja snakebite, as they are common in forest dwellers. The symptoms and specific treatment for different snakebites varies. The authors have experienced and involved in the usage of medicinal plants, their dosage and quantity from the local Hakim (traditional healer). Herbal compounds neutralize the snake venom⁵. Have studied the Ethno medicinal plants for the treatment of snakebite in West Nimar, MP, India⁶. A survey was made on Ethnobotanical plants for snakebites in Vellore District. Antony Gomes et. al.⁷ Studied the herbs against snake bite from Kolkata.

Study Area: Adilabad forest occupies about 7219 sq.km, the total population of tribal are 4,17,000 (approximately) the main occupation of the district people is agriculture, the tribal people are permitted to collect, utilize and to market the forest by products by the Government of India. As the tribal people go for the collection of plant byproducts of the forest accidentally they are prone for snakebites.

Material and Methods

The present study was carried out recently that is for 4 months. The authors contacted the snake bite victims directly and recorded the symptoms, photographed the persons, herbal plants, their dosage and period of time taken by the Hakim for the treatment of victim.

Symptoms of the snake bitten patient: A tribal man, aged

around 24 years, who went to cut the Bamboo in the forest was bitten by a deadly poisonous the Naja Naja snake(king cobra) at the right side of the right foot. Two bitten scars were clearly visible on the foot. (figure-1) Immediately after the snake bite the man could not realize the effect, after 15minutes gap, the man started feeling pain and giddiness. He was brought to the Hakim by carrying him on a cot, after 5 minutes that is of total 20minutes later, the man started oozing saliva from the mouth in the form of froth, the bitten part of the leg became swollen badly with severe pain. (figure-2) shows the broken tooth of Naja Naja collected from the bitten part of the leg, the person was in confused state and also he was closing his eyes. The leg became numb that is the victim lost the sense of touch.

Results and Discussions

The first scientific investigation of the herbal antidotes for the snakebite was carried out by Knowles R⁸ screening several plants, which are used by the local healers. In our study we have focused mainly on the herbal plants used by local traditional healer that is Hakim, observed the symptoms of the snake bitten patient and administered the plant medicine. The snake is identified as the Naja Naja. The bitten person was treated within an hour, or the herbal medicine will not have the effect over the victim. Here the patient was brought by cot to the local Hakim for the treatment. He washed the bitten part with water. The roots of *Achyranthus aspera*. L, *Abrus precatorius* .L and *Cardiospermum helicacabum*. L. were collected and made in to paste and applied in the eyes of the victim, so that the person will not go unconscious. Due to burning sensation of the eyes. This process will help in accelerating the medicinal power. The roots of *Withania somnifera* grind in to powder, to this added 20 ml of water mix thoroughly and it was administered orally to the patient, by reciting mantra using the synonyms of goddess of snakes This process is a continuous, it took 20 min time without any gap. This helped the patient to recover immediately.



Figure-1
Swollen leg of the man with snakebite

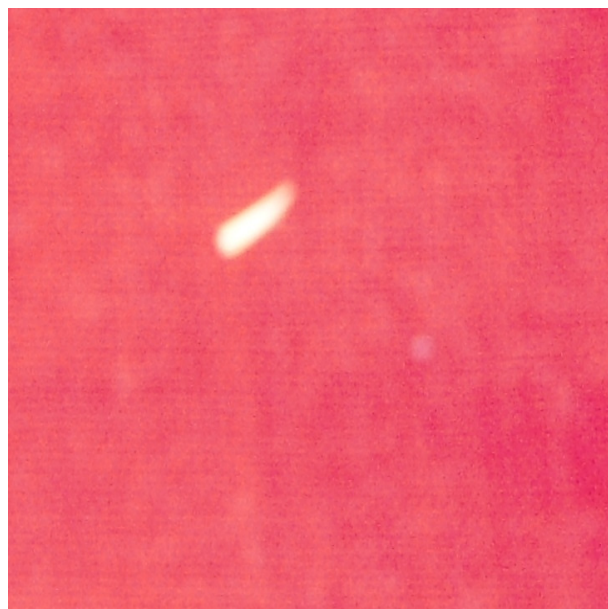


Figure-2
Showing the broken venomous tooth of Naja Naja

Conclusion

The pain is reduce and there is no symptom of oozing blood. The study highlighted the herbal medicine used for the treatment of Naja Naja snakebite in Adilabad forest area. It is greatly appreciated that the Hakim did not charge for the

treatment. He played a major role in treating the effected patient and giving a second life. The Hakim gained the confidence from the tribal people, not only the local people but also from other neighboring villages. It is suggested that the medicinal plants should be protected, propagated scientifically and used judiciously by the traditional healer or hakims. Of course it is our responsibility to protect and conserve the medicinal plants of the forest.

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