Title: A MAGIC POTION TO CURE A POISONOUS KISS: A CASE OF UNIDENTIFIED ANIMAL BITE

Introduction

Animal bites are common and account for at least 1% of Emergency Department visits in a hospital in Malaysia. Depending on the type of animal and the severity of the complications, animal bites usually require a high healthcare cost and budget. This case report is an example of the successful use of neuropolyvalent anti-venom in treating an unidentified animal bite with systemic neurotoxicity in the countryside of Kedah.

Case

This patient is a 12-year-old girl who was presented with unidentified animal bites with bite marks seen over her left lower back region while sleeping on the floor in her home. She also had symptoms of dizziness, vomiting, and diarrhea. Her vital signs were stable, and she was given IV Hydrocortisone and IV Piriton with the assumption of insect bites such as ants or centipede. However, she started developing another 2 episodes of vomiting, dysphagia, and bilateral eye ptosis during 2 hours of observation. In view of her having neurological toxicity symptoms, the case was discussed with the Emergency Physician Oncall, and he decided to give 10 vials of neuropolyvalent anti-venom. However, with the anti-venom infusion, the patient started to develop stridor with urticaria rashes over the chest, and the right facial region was seen. The anti-venom was withheld, and the patient was decided to be intubated for airway protection. The anti-venom was completed with slow infusion. She was admitted to the ICU and was extubated the next day. The patient was discharged well after observation in the ward for three days.

Discussion

As we all know, one of the most common cases of unidentified animal bites with neurotoxic effects is snake bites, especially in Malaysia. Overall, this case highlights the effectiveness of early administration of neuropolyvalent anti-venom in the case of unknown animal bites with systemic neurotoxicity for better prognosis and clinical outcomes.

Conclusion

This case report serves as evidence that early administration of neuropolyvalent in a case of systemic neurotoxicity in an unidentified animal bite will have favorable outcomes and a good prognosis.