

INTRODUCTION

Python bites are nonvenomous but can cause significant soft tissue injury. The pythons' teeth can also be embedded into soft tissue and joint spaces. Routine X-ray examination of the bitten part is a must to rule out the presence of embedded teeth in the wound.

CASE DESCRIPTION

19 - year- old gentleman, presented to the emergency department after he was bitten by a snake over his right hand. Patient had taken a picture of the snake which was identified as a python. The patient had a significant puncture wound over the thenar area of his right palm. No other significant injury was noted. An X-ray was taken but did not show any foreign body at the thenar area. The patient presented to the emergency department again one week later complaining of pain over the tip of his fourth right finger. It was then noted than the patient had a second minor injury on his finger sustained during the initial python bite a week earlier. Reexamination of the X-ray revealed a foreign body which was identified as the python's tooth.

DISCUSSION

Python bites with the snake's tooth or teeth embedded into the soft tissue or joint space is not uncommon. The size or depth of the wound can be misleading. Injuries that appear superficial maybe significant. An X-ray which covers all bitten areas should be ordered to rule out the possibility of an embedded tooth.

CONCLUSION

Careful examination for any and all wounds should be conducted after a phyton bite to rule out presence of embedded tooth or teeth by X-ray.

REFERENCES

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