

CASE REPORT

Lizard Bite in Female; Case ReportManoj Kumar Choudhary¹, Dipali Prasad²**ABSTRACT**

Introduction: Lizard bite is very uncommon. Lizard are versatile and as diverse as their dwelling. Despite having long history of co-existing with human beings, people all across the globe harbour numerous misbeliefs towards lizards.

Case report: Here we report a female who bitten by lizard on the left forearm and recovered without any complication.

Conclusion: Lizard bite is generally non fatal. To help estimate the severity of envenomation, it is important to estimate the length of time the lizard remained attached to the victim. While an effective envenomation, can occur with a contact time of few seconds. Home treatment often relieve symptoms and helps prevent infection.

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INTRODUCTION

Lizard are a wide spread squamate reptile with approximately 6000 species ranging across all continent except Antarctica.¹ Lizard are probably the most easily spotted of all reptiles.² Only two species of lizard are poisonous that is Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*) and Mexican beaded lizard (*Heloderma horridum*).

The genus *Heloderma* contains only two Venomous species of lizards found in the United State, the Gila Monster and the Mexican beaded Lizards.³

The Bengal monitor (*Varanus Bengalensis*) or common Indian Monitor is found widely in Eastern Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Burma. It is mainly terrestrial often found in Agricultural area below 1500m altitude.⁴

CASE REPORT

A 42 Year old female presented in Hospital after few hour of lizard bite on left forearm with complain of pain and swelling on the left forearm with nervousness. There is no history of vomiting, fever, cyanosis, convulsion, altered sensorium or any types of weakness in body. On examination-bleeding from left forearm (bitten area), mild swelling and slight nervousness was present due to lizard bite. One small puncture wound was present on the bite area.

Female was afebrile, conscious. Pulse 110/min, respiratory rate 20/min, blood pressure 110/70mmhg. Systemic examination was within normal limit. On Investigation- complete blood count was Hb-11gm%, TLC-7000/cm, N60% L30% M8% E03% B1%, Platelet count-4lac/cm. Serum electrolyte and renal function was within normal limit. Treatment-The wound was cleaned and betadine ointment dressing was applied. Tetanus prophylaxis was administered. Oral antibiotics (Amoxycillin), analgesic, multivitamin was started. No undue event was occurred and patient was discharged after 24 hrs of observation. On followup after 5 days there was no evidence of infection and bite area healed.

DISCUSSION

Lizard bites may be frightening but most of the species do not cause serious health problem. Only two species, Gila Monster and Mexican Beaded lizard are venomous. In India none of these varieties are found. Venom of *Heloderma* species contains number of protein and non protein components including serotonin, a bradykinin releasing substances, protease, hyaluronidase, *Helodermin* and *gilatoxin*.⁵ Recent work has revealed that Monitor and Iguana lizard produce venom capable of producing hypotension and coagulopathy.⁶ Many people believe that even the breath or urine of the lizard is poisonous. A bite from a lizard leave teeth marks, a minor scrape or a puncture wound without other symptoms. A significant number of lizard bites probably go unreported in hospital because of lack of knowledge. Home treatment often relieves symptoms and help prevent infection. In India, only reassurance to the relative or the person bitten by lizard is sufficient.⁷ Envenomation by poisonous variety occur by contamination of the wound with venom which is neurotoxic in nature. Envenomation result in tissue injury, excruciating pain, rapid swelling at the site of bite, patchy erythema. Systemic symptoms are nausea, vomiting, hematemesis, blurring of vision, dyspnea, dysphonia, and profound weakness. The degree of envenomation is related to depth, duration and



Figure-1: Photograph of an Indian house lizard.



Figure-2: Photograph showing lizard bite on left forearm of a female.

type of bite that the victim suffers. Severe pain following the Helodermatid bite may last many hours and generalized weakness may persist for several days.

CONCLUSION

House lizards are often misunderstood and mistreated due to lack of knowledge. They have been blamed since time immemorial for being venomous or poisonous. They do not produce any venom or toxin and rarely ever bite. Significant envenomation by a member of the Helodermatidae family are rare. Systemic toxicity usually resolves within one or two days with supportive care. Lastly, in severe envenomation the patient's airway and hypotension should be managed aggressively and admission may be warranted for further monitoring.

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