



HIMALAYAN WOLF ATTACK AT HIGH ALTITUDE

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INTRODUCTION

- Animal attack is a major public health problem worldWide
- In the United States, a person is more likely to be killed by an animal than from lightning strike
- Wolves are apex predators and have attacked humans since antiquity.
- Seventeen species of large mammalian carnivores have been documented to kill humans, although, only six are encountered regularly.
- Wolf attacks remain a reality in the US, Canada, Russia, and India, despite advances in security and surveillance technologies.

PATIENT'S DETAILS

- A 12-year-old male was brought to a low resource healthcare Center located in the Indian Himalayas at 9000 feet at 2200 hours, during winter with an alleged history of wolf attack around 2000 hours.
- On first examination, his head and face was covered with clotted and Dried blood with some fresh blood oozing from multiple sources. The child was conscious, oriented, and responding to commands.
- Tachycardia with feeble pulse, tachypnea and mild hypothermia were present.
- Detailed local examination revealed multiple lacerations with oozing of blood on forehead, eyes, cheeks, nose, ears, upper lip, scalp and both hands. There was ongoing anterior and posterior nasal bleeding
- Lacerations over the forehead, cheeks, and lips were 1 to 5cm in Length and 4 to 10mm deep.
- Both superior and inferior palpebrae of right eye were torn apart and lay hanging laterally. Left palpebrae were intact. There was no apparent injury to either globe of eyes.
- A large laceration over the bridge of nose extending below the left eye leading to exposure of nasal and facial bones was seen.
- Both ears were mauled by the wolf, leading to soft tissue injury around the ears. There were no serious injuries on the neck and Other parts of the body .
- The child was looked after in a heated room with passive heating with electric blanket and warm ringer lactate infusion.
- Lacerated wounds were irrigated by warm sterile normal saline followed by local injection of empirical antimicrobials.
- Tetanus Prophylaxis and intravenous antimicrobials were administered
- Anti-rabies prophylaxis included subcutaneous and intramuscular administration of tissue culture based rabies vaccine in divided doses.
- Nasal packing was followed by loose bandaging of eyes and facial wounds.
- Wounds were not sutured. The case was transferred to a tertiary care facility with planned staging at a secondary care facility at 0100 hours.
- Follow up after a month revealed survival of the case with healing of wounds while being considered for reconstructive intervention at a tertiary care facility.



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Wolf, *Canis lupus*, is the largest member of Canidae family.
- It is native to wilderness and remote areas in tropical, subtropical, temperate, desert, cold continental, and polar climate of Eurasia and North America.
- Larger wolves are seen in Alaska, Canada, and Russia compared to their smaller cousins in Middle-East and South Asia, increasing proportionally in size with latitude.
- Wolves have a long history of association with communities in primary occupations such as Nomadism, farming, mining, and military.
- They have been mentioned in the literature and folklore more than other wildlife species.
- The Himalayan wolf (*Canis lupus chanco* or *Canis himalayensis*) found in India, Nepal, and Tibet, is a critically endangered species
- Wolf-human interactions require diligent efforts at threat assessment, mitigation measures, and community responses under one health approach.
- Communities in close proximity to wolf populations need to be supported with real time wildlife surveillance and containment systems through fencing, thermal imaging, infectious diseases, and vector surveillance to characterize the spatiotemporal patterns of wildlife ethology and ecosystems.



REFERENCES

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