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Diploma in Pharmacy 1st Year
Social Pharmacy
Experiment

To study emergency for all medical emergency cases viz snake bite, dog bite, insecticide poisoning, fractures, burns, and epilepsy.

Aim:

To study emergency for all medical emergency cases viz snake bite, dog bite, insecticide poisoning, fractures, burns, and epilepsy.

Reference :

Dr. Gupta G.D , Dr. Sharma Shailesh , Dr. Sharma Anshu , " Practical Manual of Social Pharmacy " Published by Nirali Prakashan , Pg.No 43 - 46

Theory :

1) Emergency Treatment for Snake Bite : A snakebite victim must immediately visit the hospital emergency department. However, identifying the snake as venomous or nonvenomous must not be considered as criteria for seeking the medical care.

i) Move away immediately from the area where the snake has bitten the victim. If the snake remains attached even after biting, use a stick or tool for removing it. Victims of sea snakes must be shifted to dry land in order to avoid drowning.

ii) Wound must be washed with large amounts of water and soap. Analyse the wound properly for any dirt or broken teeth.

iii) Anything tight from around the part bitten must be removed, eg, anklets, bracelets, rings, etc., as if the swelling occurs on the bitten part of the body then it can cause harm over that.

iv) A tight arterial tourniquet must not be used ever.

v) In certain cases, applying pressure with a pressure pad at the bite site might be suitable.

vi) Traditional first aid methods such as herbal medicines and other unsafe or unproven forms of first aid must not be used.

vii) Various snake bites are triggered by non-venomous snakes therefore it is important to reassure the victim. And even after most venomous snake bites the death risk is not immediate.

viii) Completely immobilise the victim. Bandage the limb so that it becomes still Makeshift stretcher must be used for carrying carry the victim to a place where transpon is available for taking them to a hospital or health facility.

ix) The Australian Pressure Immobilisation Bandage (PIB) Method is recommended only for snake bites by neurotoxic snakes which do not cause local swelling.

x) The person or victim must be as soon as possible transported to a health care facility.

xi) Paracetamol can be prescribed for local pain (that might be severe).

xii) Vomiting might occur; therefore the person must be placed on their left side in the recovery position.

xiii) If necessary, monitor closely breathing and airway and be prepared to resuscitate.

Medical research supports the following warnings

- **Do Not Cut and Suck :** Cutting into the site of snake bite can result in damaging the underlying organs, and also increase the infection risk Sucking on the site of snake bite does not help in removing the in venom.
- **Do Not Use Ice :** Ice must not be used as it does not deactivate the venom and can result in frostbite.
- **Do Not Use Electric Shocks :** Any type of electric shock must be avoided as it can cause burns or problems with the electrical signals of heart thereby causing arrhythmia.
- **Do Not Use Alcohol :** Alcohol might provide relief in the pain, but it also causes vasodilation of local blood vessels thereby making them bigger and hence causing increase in absorption of venom.
- **Do Not Use Tourniquets or Constriction Bands :** Tourniquets or constriction bands must not be used as these might cause increased tissue damage, and could cost the victim a limb.

2) Emergency Treatment for Dog Bite : A dog bite can be defined as a bite from a dog or wild dog upon a person or other animal A dog bite can cause rabies or tetanus infection However, medical care is immediately required if e bite is from a dog already having or might be having rabies

i) The affected area must be cleaned with soap and a large volume of water.
ii) An effective method is keeping the wounds elevated, putting them under a faucet to wash with a large volume of water
iii) In case the wound is bleeding due to deep injury then apply pressure using a clean and dry cloth. Then after immediately call for medical care help
iv) For other symptoms in serious including exposure of underlying muscle or bone, extreme pain, difficulty in moving the bitten limb or if the status of the dog's rabies and last tetanus vaccination of dog is not known, then it is important to reach the nearest hospital or health care clinic as soon as possible for treatment and evaluation.
v) Local animal control agency or police department must be reported for the bite, predominantly if the dog or observed the dog acting strangely is not known.
vi) Consider to contact, the owner for verifying the status of rabies vaccination of dog.

3) Emergency Treatment for Fractures : A bone fracture can be defined as a medical condition in which the bone breakes off due to traffic accidents, falls, or bone stress (to which stress fractures in athletes are attributed) as a result of significant pressure exerted on the bones. In addition, fractures can also occur due to some medical conditions that cause the bone to become weak, like, such as: osteoporosis and some cancers Fractures caused due to diseased condition are known as pathologic fractures. Fractures are commonly of two types

1) **Compound or Open Fracture :** In this the damaged bone penetrates the skin which then tears it. These types are more serious.
2) **Closed Fracture :** In this the damaged bone does not tear through the skin:

Treatment

Provide the first-aid treatment if an individual has a broken bone, and help them get professional care:

- **Stop Any Bleeding :** If the bleeding occurs then elevate and using a sterile bandage, a clean piece of clothing or a clean cloth, apply pressure to the wound.
- **Immobilise the Injured Area :** If a bone in their neck or back has been broken then, help them stay as still as possible. If a bone in one of their limbs has been broken then immobilise the area by the help of a splint or sling.
- **Apply Cold Compression to the Area :** A bag of ice cubes in a piece of cloth must be wrapped or an ice pack must be applied to the injured area for about 10 minutes at a time.
- **Treat Them for Shock :** Cover the person with a clothing or blanket for keeping them warm and help them get into a comfortable position Encourage the person to rest, and also reassure them.
- **Get Professional Help :** if required call 911 or help the person to get to the emergency department for professional care.

4) Emergency Treatment for Burns : Bums can include any type of damage to the skin or deeper tissues caused by hot liquids, sun, electricity, fire or chemicals

i) **Treating Major Burns :** For major burns

- Protect the burned person from further harm. If the first aider can do so safely, make sure the person the helping is not in contact with the source of the burn. For electrical burns, make sure the power source is off before approaching the burned person.
- The bumed person must be protected from further harm. Make sure that the victim must not be in contact with any type of burn source In case of electrical burns, it must be assured that the power source remains switched off before the burned person is approached.
- It must be assured that the burned person is breathing. If required rescue breathing must be started if the procedure is known.
- Belts jewelry, and other restrictive items, must be removed particularly from around the burned areas and the neck as the burned areas rapidly swells up.
- Using a cool clean cloth or a moist bandage the burned area must be covered.
- Large severe burns must not be immersed in water as it can result in serious hypothermia (loss of body heat).

- If possible, the wound of burned area should be elevated above heart level.
- Watch for signs of shock which includes pale complexion, fainting or breathing in a notably shallow fashion.

ii) **Treating Minor Burns :** For minor burns

- **Cool Down the Burn :** Cool down the burn area and hold the area of burned skin under cool (not cold) running water. A cool, wet compress can also be applied till the pain eases.
- **Remove the Jewelry :** Belts jewelry, and other restrictive items. must be removed quickly and gently particularly from around the burned areas and the neck as the burned areas rapidly swells up.
- **Do Not Break the Blisters :** Blisters appeared on the burned area should not be broken as these fluid-filled blisters provide protection against infection. However, if a blister breaks, the area should be cleaned with water and optionally mild soap can also be used An antibiotic ointment can be then applied on the broken blisters if a rash does not appear, else stop further use of ointment.
- **Apply Lotion :** A lotion must be applied once a burn is cooled completely, such as one that contains moisturiser or aloe-vera. This helps in providing relief and preventing drying of the wound.
- **Bandage the Burn :** A sterile gauze bondage should be med for covering the burn The burned area muut he wrapped loosely in order to avoid pressure on burned skin Putting bandage keeps ait oll the area, protects blistered skin and reduces pain.
- If required, an over-the-counter pain reliever can be taken, such as naproxen sodium (Aleve), ibuprofen (Advil, Mouin IB, other) or acetaminophen (Tylenol, others).

5) Emergency Treatment for Insecticide Poisoning : Chemical that kills bugs is known as insecticide. When an individual swallows or breathes in this chemical substance or if the substance is absorbed through the skin then it is considered to be insecticide poisoning Stronger insecticides which contain many dangerous substances can be used in commercial greenhouse or can be stored in the garage of a person. These include:

i) Organophosphates
ii) Carbamates
iii) Paradichlorobenzenes (mothballs)

Treatment

Treatment might include :

i) Fluids administered through intravenous route (TV-through a vein)
ii) Symptomatic treatment through medicines.
iii) Gastric lavage in which a tube through the mouth is inserted into the stomach to empty the stomach for insecticide.
iv) Surgery for removing the burned skin
v) Wash the skin (imgation), possibly every few hours for several days
vi) Ventilator to provide breathing support including tube through the mouth into the lungs and connected to a breathung machine,

- **Swallowed Poison :** Vomiting must be induced ONLY if emergency personnel on the phone asks to do so. However it will only depend on which type of poison the person has swallowed since some caustic poisons or petroleum products can cause more damage if vomiting is induced Always keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand (1 ounce for each child in the household) for inducing vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel.
- **Poison in Eye :** Pesticides are absorbed faster by eye membranes than any other body's external part In case the poison splish-splashes into an eye hold the eyelid open and quickly and gently wash with clean running tap water or a gentle stream from a hose for minimum 15 minates Never use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.
- **Poison on Skin :** Soak area with water and remove contaminated clothing if pesticide splashes on the skin. Thoroughly wash skin and hair with soap and water.
- **Inhaled Polson :** Immediately carry the victim to fresh air Loosen up the tight clothing of the victim. Provide artificial respiration if the skin of the victim appears blue or has stopped breathing, and call rescue service for help. Keep the doors and windows opened so no one else will be poisoned by fumes.

6) **Emergency Treatment for Epilepsy :** Seizures require emergency care unless it is known that the person has a seizures history and a brief seizure can be treated at home. However, if the seizure is of different type, or lasts for more than 5 minutes, then one must call the emergency number-911.

i) **Prevent Choking :**

a) Loos the cloths around the neck of the person.

b) The person must be rolled on their side in order to keep the airway open.

c) Do not insert anything into the mouth of the person. The person can be harmed and risk being bitten, if someone tries to put something in their mouth.

ii) **Protect From Injury :**

a) Sharp objects must be moved, like furniture or glassware, away from the person.

b) Do not restrain or hold down the person.

c) Ask bystanders to give the person room.

iii) **Treatment :** Medications might be required.

iv) **Follow Up :** Stay with the person till the emergency help arrives.

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Result : Emergency for all medical emergency cases viz. snake bite, dog bite, insecticide poisoning, fractures, burns, and epilepsy were studied.