

SNAKEBITE ACCIDENTS IN GOIÁS

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In 1989 the Centro de Informações Tóxico-Farmacológicas of Goiás (CIT/SUDS-GO), reported 1,764 snakebite accidents in the State of Goiás. The genus *Bothrops* was responsible for 57.8% of the accidents, 15.2% by *Crotalus*, 4.7% by non venomous snakes and, in 22.3% of the cases, the snake was not identified. Most of the accidents where the snake was not identified were treated as caused by a snake of the genus *Bothrops*, with good clinical results, suggesting this causing agent. In 10% of the cases the snake was brought with the victim. According to the data of geographic distribution of venomous animals by the Núcleo Regional de Ofiologia de Goiânia (NUROG-UCG/MS), the animals most common in the States of Goiás, Tocantins and Distrito Federal are *Bothrops moojeni* Hoge, *Bothrops neuwiedi* Wagler, *Bothrops alternatus* Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, and *Crotalus durissus collilineatus* Amaral. The species *Bothrops moojeni* has the most widespread geographic distribution and the highest frequency. *Bothrops neuwiedi* shows smaller distribution and lower frequency. *Bothrops neuwiedi* is represented by the subspecies *Bothrops neuwiedi goyazensis*, *Bothrops neuwiedi matogrossensis*, and *Bothrops neuwiedi pauloensis*. Only in a small part of the territory of Goiás, in the south, was the presence of *Bothrops alternatus* confirmed. The geographic distribution of *Crotalus durissus collilineatus* is very large and has a high frequency, especially in the middle-north of the State of Goiás, State of Tocantins and Distrito Federal. In 1,301 cases (77.4%) the accidents involved only male patients. In the age group 13-35 most accidents occurred (49.7%); with 17.0% of the accidents occurring between the ages of 0-12 years. In about 16.4% of the cases medical attention was given within the first hour after the accident, and 62.8% received attention within three hours after the accident. 74.7% of the accidents involved the lower part of the legs (ankles and feet). Among all reported accidents 72.6% occurred between October and April, and the months of June and July (winter) showed the lowest frequency of accidents. The signs/symptoms most frequent in accidents caused by *Bothrops* were edema (90%), pain (78%), blisters (11%) and local hemorrhage (7.4%). In 85.7% of the cases there was total recovery and in 0.7% the cases resulted in death. In 15.7% of the cases abscesses formed. The aerobic bacteria isolated most frequently¹, were *Morganella morganii* (44.4%), *Escherichia coli* (20.2%), and *Providencia sp.* (13.2%). In vitro, these bacteria showed high sensitivity to chloranfenicol, which also shows good results in the treatment of anaerobic bacteria isolated from these abscesses.

REFERENCE

1. ANDRADE, J.G.; PINTO, R.N.L.; ANDRADE, A.L.S.S.; MARTELLI, C.M.T.; ZICKER, F. Estudo bacteriológico de abscessos causados por picada de serpentes do gênero *Bothrops*. *Rev. Inst. Med. trop. S.Paulo*, 31:363-367, 1989.

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GOI reported 1 184 snakebite accidents in the State of Goiás. The genus *Bothrops*
was responsible for 65.8% of the accidents, 18.3% by *Crotalus*, 4.7% by non-
venomous snakes and in 11.2% of the cases, the snake was not identified. Most
of the accidents where the snake was not identified were located in areas of
a state of the State of Goiás with good crop yields, suggesting that snakes
in search of food are brought with the snakes and the snakes are identified.
The State of Goiás is geographically situated in the region of cerrado and
Sertão de Goiás, known as the *Planaltina de Goiás*, and is bordered by Mato
Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Maranhão, Tocantins and
Pernambuco. The snakes in the State of Goiás are identified through
wide geographic distribution and the region is very rich in vegetation.
The State of Goiás is a large territory, with a population of 2,800,000
inhabitants and a population density of 100 inhabitants per km². The State
of Goiás is the South, was the region of highest economic activity and
geographic importance in the State of Goiás. Snakebite accidents and
snakebites are especially in the middle-north of the State of Goiás. Snakebites
and snakebites are 1,301 cases (77.4%); the accidents involving snakes
patients in the age group 15-50 most accidents occurred 15.7% with 17.0%
of the accidents occurring between the ages of 0-12 years. In about 65.4% of
the cases medical attention was given within the first hour after the accident,
and 65.8% received attention within three hours after the accident. 14.7% of
the accidents involved the lower part of the leg/ankle and hand. Among all
reported accidents 55.8% occurred between October and April, and the months
of June and July showed the lowest frequency of accidents. The
clinical symptoms most frequent in accidents caused by *Bothrops* were edema
[90.6%], pain [88.1%], nausea [17.6%] and local hemorrhage [14.6%]. In 85.1% of
the cases there was total recovery and in 0.7% the cases resulted in death. In
16.7% of the cases abscesses formed. The aerobic bacteria isolated from
patients were *Staphylococcus aureus* (44.4%), *Escherichia coli* (30.2%), and
Proteus sp. (13.2%). In vitro these bacteria showed high sensitivity to anti-
biotics, which also shows good results in the treatment of snakebite patients
isolated from these species.