

## CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS FOLLOWING SNAKE BITE DUE TO NON-POISONOUS SNAKES

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Annually, Sri Lanka has 23,000 snake bites due to non poisonous snakes. 34 patients were seen following snake bite. All had pain and the fear of death. The local signs and symptoms consisted of pain, oozing of blood, tingling sensation, smarting, tooth marks, and laceration, infection and ulceration. The general complaints, symptoms, and signs consisted of syncope, tightness of the chest, breathlessness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, anxiety state, increase in blood pressure and pulse. 14 patients were given 100 mls 50% dextrose I.V. and were told that if they had a burning sensation (which normally occurs when dextrose is given IV) that the venom had been neutralized, and in eight patients the sural nerve and lateral popliteal nerve was blocked. It was found that in these two groups there was a significant fall of the pulse rate and the general symptoms disappeared within 1 hour. It is probable that the general symptoms are psychological in origin and a placebo is very useful in these patients.