The Wild Boar Attack – A Case Report of a Wild Boar Inflicted Injury and Treatment

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ABSTRACT

Croatia is a relatively safe country in regards to wild animal attacks and trauma to humans, even though there are a few reported cases of wild animal attacks on humans almost every year. As a bio-diversity hot-spot it is inhabited by a few wild animal species that are known to attack humans and cause serious, sometimes even fatal injuries to humans throughout the world, such as wolves, brown bears and wild boars. We present a case of a recent wild boar attack on a human – a hunter that occurred in central Croatia in the year 2012. The injured person was a part of a group of hunters involved in a drive hunt on wild boars. He sustained a 4 cm long laceration of the left knee by a wounded male wild boar. After the surgical and antibiotic treatment he recovered completely and without any complications.

Key words: wild animal, trauma, bites and stings, wild boar, injury, treatment

Introduction

Wild boar (Sus scrofa, Linnaeus 1758) is a native large game animal of Croatia, representing the most widely distributed ungulate whose population significantly increased during the last decades5. Mainly due to the fact that the number of wild boar has rapidly increased, more and more contacts humans are reported, like vehicle collisions2, agriculture damage2 and finally attacks on humans5. Wild boars are generally not dangerous to humans, they are known to attack when provoked, mainly during the rut season (males), leading piglets (females) or when wounded5. The typical attack pattern of wild boars is biting or tearing and cutting with sharp tusks, which initially occur in the lower extremities and lower-abdomen region. Following the initial assault the animal attacks repeatedly thus victims often have more than one injury site5-8. Fatal attacks caused by wild animals are reported mainly by large predator animals like bears, leopards, wolves and lions5-8, while only a few fatal attacks from wild boars have been reported5-9.

In order to achieve a successful outcome the treatment wild animal injuries requires a multidisciplinary approach most often by an orthopedic surgeon, plastic surgeon, a microbiologist and sometimes even a psychiatrist8.

This is a case report of one such incident that recently occurred in Croatia.

Case Report

A 27 year old hunter was attack by a wild boar on November 25, 2012 at approximately 10:30 AM in central Croatia, near the town of Glina (N 45°18'22" E 16°02'42"). The region is an ideal wild boar habitat with a very high population high density (16 individuals/sq km)10. The attack occurred while he was approaching a two year old wounded male boar during a drive hunt on wild boars. He sustained a 4 cm long laceration of the left knee by a wounded male wild boar. After the surgical and antibiotic treatment he recovered completely and without any complications.

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Discussion

Wild boar is a wild animal species that has the most number of documented attacks on humans in Croatia. They are known to have a typical attack pattern that results in a localized pattern of injuries. They first charge and bite, often from behind, resulting in injuries to the lower extremities, and if the assault continues and the victim is knocked to the ground, more dangerous and severe secondary lesions may occur in any anatomic location depending on the relative position of the victim and attacking animal.

This case represents a new incident that has all of the risk factors that are known to increase the potential of wild boar attacks on humans (hunting season, wounded animal, male animal – that is known to be extremely aggressive, close human – animal interaction). As proposed in literature, the antibiotic therapy with a scheme as a full length and full duration as opposed to prophylactic has once again proved it is a safe and efficient management protocol – no complications, such as infection or prolongation of wound healing that have been known to happen with only prophylactic antibiotic therapy has not occurred. The best therapy for wild animal inflicted wounds with special regard to optimal wound healing time, minimum complications and minimal residual functional and aesthetic impairment would be, in our opinion, primary wound debridement and sutures with immediate full dose antibiotic therapy (Amoxicillin plus clavulanic acid or a combination of ciprofloxacin with co-amoxiclav) alongside tetanus toxoid booster and post exposure rabies prophylaxis. Of course each case of wild animal inflicted wounds should be looked at and treated individually with careful assessment of all potential risk factors for complications from the side of the animal itself (species, known microbiological organisms in their oral cavity, etc.) as well as from the side of the injured person (age, comorbidities, possible immunosuppression, etc.).

Finally, as concluded by Nabi et al., this problem requires multidisciplinary approach on a state level to reduce it, which should inevitably include education of all interest groups, especially hunters themselves.

REFERENCES


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NAPAD DVLJE SVINJE – SLUČAJ OZLJEDE NANEŠENE OD DVLJE SVINJE I LIJEČENJE

SAŽETAK

Hrvatska je relativno sigurna zemlja u pogledu napada divljih životinja i ozljeđivanja ljudi, iako gotovo svake godine ima po nekoliko prijavljenih slučajeva napada divljih životinja na ljude. Kao jedno od mjesta s velikom bio-raznolikošću naseljaju ju nekoliko vrsta divljih životinja koje znaju napasti ljude te uzrokovati ozbiljne pa čak i smrtonosne ozljede ljudima, kao što su naprimer vukovi, smedj medvjedi i divlje svinje. U ovom radu ćemo prezentirati nedavni napad divljih životinja na čovjeka u Hrvatskoj.

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