



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

THE RELATION BETWEEN ESCHAR LESION AREA AND DIRECT CONTACT WITH INFECTED ANIMALS IN CUTANEOUS ANTHRAX

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Background: Anthrax is still a zoonotic diseases problem which often appears sporadically in an area. The problem of transmission to humans through direct or indirect contact is very influential. The outbreak usually starts with the presence of an infected animal. Because of the community towards ignorance the early signs and symptoms of anthrax causes a lack of effort in breaking the chain of transmission to humans so that the appearance of skin manifestations in the form of eschar frequently occurs after the animals infected with anthrax die.

Objective: This study aims to assess the effect of direct contact with the appearance of eschar on cutaneous anthrax.

Material and method: This observational study was conducted based on history of direct contact with eschar in people of endemic area.

Results: 50 people exposed to anthrax from infected animals, 30% had skin manifestation in the form of eschar lesion, 60% experienced direct contact in which 27% with six animals and 73% with slaughtered animals. Indirect contact was defined as washing the meat 52%, cooking the meat 23% and eating the cooked meat 25%, and we found 5% people with indirect contact had eschar lesion. Direct contact significantly related to the appearance of eschar lesion ($p=0.002$), but it did not correlate with the extent of the lesion ($p=0.45$).

Conclusion: History of direct contact with animals infected with anthrax greatly affects the onset of eschar lesion, but it is not related to the severity and the extent of lesion.

