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**Shraddha Sinha**  
Department of Epidemiology  
and Preventive Medicine, CVSc  
and A.H. Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha, India

**Pranav Diwan**  
Department of ARGO, CVSc  
and A.H. Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha, India

**Niranjana Sahoo**  
Department of Epidemiology  
and Preventive Medicine, CVSc  
and A.H. Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha, India

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Shraddha Sinha**  
Department of Epidemiology  
and Preventive Medicine, CVSc  
and A.H. Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha, India

## Treatment of tetanus in Rhesus monkey: A case report

Shraddha Sinha, Pranav Diwan and Niranjana Sahoo

### Abstract

*Clostridium tetani* produces neurotoxin, known to cause Tetanus. It is mainly found in soil and GIT and penetrate its ways through puncture wound and responsible for generalized spastic paralysis. A rescued monkey, wounded by the bite of another monkey was presented to TVCC. Clinical signs shown was tonic spasm of body, mainly stiffness at tips of fingers and toes. Supportive treatment was given which includes gram positive antibiotic Penicillin and tetanus toxoid which would provide active immunization.

**Keywords:** Treatment, tetanus, monkey, Tetanus, TVCC

### Introduction

The condition started with gait stiffness and progressed to extensor rigidity, trismus, and opisthotonos (Kessler MJ). Juveniles and adults of both sexes were infected primarily through septic wounds, but females were also infected postpartum. As a result of increased levels of aggression and subsequent wounding, the peak incidence of tetanus deaths for both sexes occurred during the mating season of the annual reproductive cycle (Rawlins, R. G). The disease could last anywhere from 24 hours to 10 days in deadly situations (Kessler, M. J.).

### Case History

A rescued monkey, wounded by the bite of another monkey was presented to TVCC. Clinical signs shown was tonic spasm of body, mainly stiffness at tips of fingers and toes.

### Diagnosis

Early behavioural abnormalities such as torpor, reluctance to interact with other animals, inability to prehend food, inordinate thirst, difficulty swallowing, progressive stiffening and adduction of the pectoral limbs, bipedal running, "kangaroo hopping," "toppling over," and pilo-erection were used to diagnose tetanus (Rawlins, R. G). As per history, clinical signs and response to treatment confirmed the presence of *Clostridium tetani*.

### Treatment

Active immunization was done by injecting tetanus toxoid 1500 I.U. as immediate treatment. Long-acting penicillin (Penidure 6L) was given weekly once for 3 times. Hypersensitivity test was done before treatment by injecting the drug intradermally, as a result no wheal formation was found after 5-10 minutes. So, treatment was proceeded.

### Result

The monkey shown unfolding of fingers and lower degree of stiffness after 1 week of treatment and the clinical signs were gradually disappeared upto third week.

### **Conclusion**

Study in this area is rare in non-human primates. It was the first case seen in TVCC Bhubaneswar.

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