

**Abstract:**

Tetanus is a potentially fatal infection especially in the elderly population, due to poor immunity. Morbidity & mortality is high in the elderly population since tetanus has severe systemic forms requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation & hospitalization. We report a case of generalized tetanus in a 78-year-old elderly patient who had multiple complications requiring prolonged ICU care.

scratching. In some cases, no damage can be detected and chronic conditions such as skin lesions, abscesses, and gangrene may be involved [2].

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 35 and 70 new cases of tetanus are reported annually in the USA, most of which are related to the elderly population (over 60 years) suggesting a reduction in the protective effect of primary vaccination [3].

Here, we report a case of a 78-year-old, elderly male who presented to National Hospital, Kandy (NHK), Sri Lanka with a history of progressive swallowing difficulty and trismus following a puncture wound in the foot and later was diagnosed to have generalized tetanus. Although there are many case reports regarding tetanus in elderly, globally, data is lacking in the Sri Lankan setup. We