

## Images in Infectious Diseases

# Injuries and infection caused by capybara bites in a human

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**FIGURE 1:** Capybaras in their natural habitat. These animals can settle in urban and peri-urban areas, increases the risk of contact with human beings. In detail, on the right: image of the incisors.

Capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* - Linnaeus, 1766) are large rodents, living in groups<sup>1</sup>. When cornered or attacked, they defend themselves using their sharp teeth (**Figure 1**)<sup>2</sup>.

A 25-year-old female from Balneário Camboriú (Santa Catarina State, Brazil) was bitten on the left thigh and scratched on the left lower leg while trying to rescue her dog from a capybara attack during a walk in a forested area (**Figure 2**). She was successfully rescued, but the dog died two days later.

The victim underwent intensive wound cleaning and suturing; she received analgesia, amoxicillin and clavulanate 2g/day for 10 days, and tetanus and rabies vaccinations. She developed an abscess in the left thigh, which was drained. After 25 days, she had scars ranging between 1 and 8 cm. At the proximal part of the left thigh, there was an approximately 2.5 cm ulcer in the process of resolution and a 4.0 cm scar in the distal part of the thigh (**Figure 3**). Wounds and infections caused by wild animals are becoming common today which highlights the need for microbiological studies of oral flora in wild animals and traumatic structures<sup>3</sup>.

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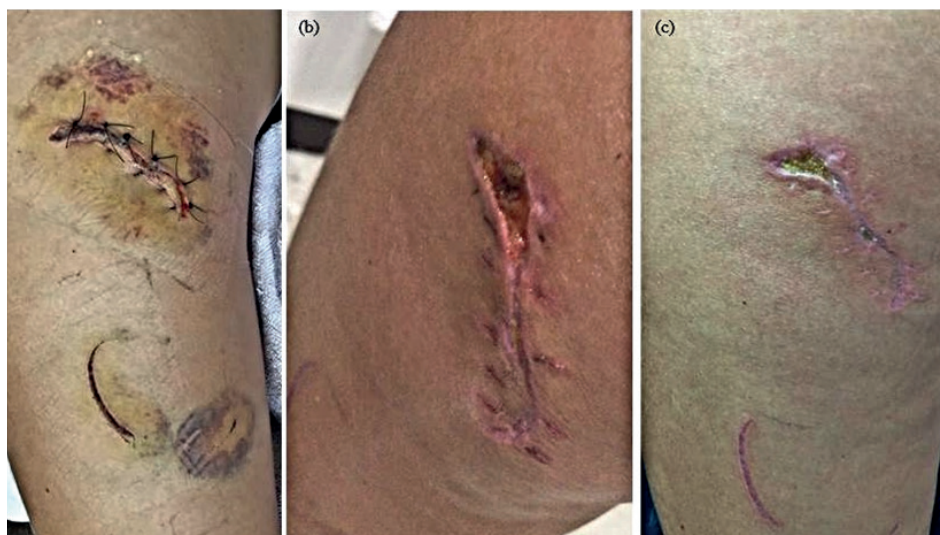
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### ETHICS

Clearance from the research ethics committees of the authors' affiliated institutions is not necessary for an isolated case report.



**FIGURE 2:** Deep laceration on the left thigh of the victim, possibly caused by the incisor teeth of a capybara, and several scratches on left leg are visible.



**FIGURE 3:** Areas of trauma due to the bite and scratches immediately after initial care (left) after 14 days, showing dehiscence and secondary infection (center), and after 25 days with a partially healed lesion (right).

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#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

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#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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