

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Harbin Surgeon Publishes Research of Snakebite Treatment in Extremities

ROME, GA., December 15, 2010 – The Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recently published an article authored by Harbin Clinic Orthopaedic Surgeon Brad Bushnell, M.D. His article, *The Management of Venomous Snakebite Injury to the Extremities*, notes the occurrence of around 45,000 snakebite injuries annually in the United States and the affects of these injuries to extremities.

Mortality rates from snakebites have dramatically dropped from the early 1900's to present, according to Bushnell's research. Recent data shows that five to six snakebite-related fatalities occur per year in the United States. However, proper treatment of snakebites is imperative to reduce risks of death and/or serious injury to the affected area.

Dr. Bushnell's article stated that, after a snake bite, treatment in the field should include the safe identification of the species of snake and rapid transport of the patient to the nearest health care facility. He notes that while most patients respond to the elevation

of the affected extremity and observation, some require the administration of antivenin. Dr. Bushnell also notes that close monitoring of the extremity and measurement of compartment pressure is a reliable method of determining whether surgical intervention is required.

Dr. Bushnell came to Harbin Clinic from Denver, CO. A native of Athens, GA, he graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, with a degree in Religious Studies and also studied Spanish history and language at the University of Madrid, Spain. He received his Medical Doctorate degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He completed an Internship in Surgery as well as completing his Orthopaedic Residency at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Harbin Clinic is Georgia's largest physician-owned multi-specialty clinic. With approximately 160 doctors and extenders in 20 locations, Harbin Clinic provides care to thousands of people in North Georgia and parts of Alabama, and Tennessee.

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