

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF ALTERED SENSORIUM IN A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN: DATURA INTOXICATION

Abstract

Background; *Datura stramonium* is a hallucinogenic plant widely found in urban and rural areas with easy accessibility. Accidental or intentional poisoning manifests with a classic anti-cholinergic syndrome due to the tropane alkaloids found in this plant. Most of the cases reported in the literature occurred among teenagers after voluntary ingestion of “love potions or witches’ brews” for its euphoric and hallucinogenic effects.

Case summary; This case report illustrates an unusual case of *Datura stramonium* toxicity due to accidental ingestion of its leaves in a mixture of kanji prepared with different herbal leaves, in a middle-aged woman with multiple medical comorbidities who presented with altered sensorium. She was found to have features of severe anti-cholinergic syndrome and managed with supportive care and made a full recovery.

Conclusion; Even though rare, poisoning with *Datura Stromonium* should be considered in those with altered sensorium with features of anti-cholinergic syndrome at all ages. Ingestion of this plant can cause not only anticholinergic toxicity, but also the deterioration of cerebral functions, serious liver toxicity, cardiac conduction problems and decline in renal functions due to rhabdomyolysis. Clinicians should have a high degree of suspicion for early diagnosis thus preventing the morbidity and mortality related to the toxicity.

Key words; *Datura stramonium*, anticholinergic syndrome, altered sensorium