

Abstract

Introduction

The scientific name for Niyagala is *Gloriosa superba*. It is a common plant poison in Sri Lanka. Poisoning can be accidental or intentional. All parts of the Niyagala plants are poisonous. Toxicity is mainly due to the alkaloid colchicine, which affects the normal cell division. Niyagala is a multi-organ toxin which affects the gastro-intestinal system, respiratory system, neurological system, hematological system, cardio-vascular system, kidneys, and skin. Here, we report a case of a 41-year-old gentleman, who had multi-organ toxicity following accidental ingestion of Niyagala tuber.

Case report

A 41-year-old previously healthy gentleman developed profuse vomiting and watery diarrhea, type 1 respiratory failure, acute liver injury, thrombocytopenia, hypokalemia, coagulopathy, and secondary bacterial pneumonia following ingestion of one tuber of Niyagala.

Conclusion

Physicians should be aware of the clinical manifestations, and the possibility of multi-organ dysfunction following Niyagala ingestion, which is not uncommon in Sri Lanka. Monitoring and prompt supportive management should be carried out to prevent permanent organ damage and mortality.