

Abstract

Introduction

Gloriosa superba is a poisonous plant that contains colchicine. Colchicine exerts its toxic effects by its antimitotic activity. Toxicity can lead to multiorgan failure and death.

Case

Here we present a 29-year-old Sri Lankan woman who presented with acute *gloriosa superba* poisoning. She was admitted with features of acute gastroenteritis and dehydration. During the course of illness, she developed an acute liver injury, coagulopathy with bleeding, metabolic acidosis, electrolyte imbalances including hypokalemia, hypocalcemia, and hypomagnesemia. She was found to have a type-1 respiratory failure and chest x-ray evidence of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) requiring mechanical ventilation. Initially, her FBC showed leukocytosis but on day 6 of illness, there was evidence of pancytopenia which recovered spontaneously. She developed alopecia on day 13. Early and adequate hydration, monitoring of the vital signs, prompt respiratory support, and antibiotic treatment resulted in good recovery.

Conclusion

In a patient with *gloriosa superba* poisoning monitoring is crucial for the early detection of dehydration and respiratory failure thereby prompt supportive care.