

NAPHTHALENE POISONING IN A YOUNG GLUCOSE 6 PHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE DEFICIENT PATIENT

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Naphthalene poisoning is a rare form of toxicity that may occur after ingestion, inhalation, or dermal exposure to naphthalene-containing compounds. It is a volatile polycyclic hydrocarbon used as a household deodorizer and moth repellent. Ingestional naphthalene poisoning can lead to methaemo-globulinaemia and intravascular haemolysis with diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. Associated G6PD deficiency may make it more complicated. A 20-year-old man presented with low-grade fever, lethargy and dark urine for 4 days. His vitals showed normal temperature, tachycardia with normal blood pressure and low oxygen saturation (76%) despite having high flow oxygen (15L/min). On repeated queries, he gave a history of ingesting a few naphthalene balls after a heated conversation with his friends. Laboratory workup showed features of haemolysis, methaemoglobinaemia, haemoglobinuria and low glucose 6 phosphate dehydrogenase level. The patient was treated conservatively with intravenous fluid, packed red blood cells transfusion, N acetylcysteine and ascorbic acid with full recovery.

Keywords: Naphthalene Poisoning, Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficient, methaemo-globulinaemia

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