

Short Communication

Isolated Skin Lesion Without Systemic Manifestations Following Kerosene Ingestion

Sadananda Naik B*, Jyothi CS**

ABSTRACT

Kerosene ingestion is known to produce skin lesions. But a rare case is being reported of skin lesions being the only manifestation in a patient who had consumed kerosene, but did not show evidence of systemic toxicity.

Key Words: Kerosene, Skin rash

Introduction

Accidental and suicidal ingestion of kerosene is quite common in India in all age groups. Kerosene can produce varied clinical manifestations ranging from CNS manifestations to pulmonary features. Skin manifestations have been seen following consumption of kerosene, along with other system manifestations. A case is being reported of isolated skin manifestations without any systemic complications.

The Case – A 20-year-old girl presented with a history of deliberate ingestion of 60ml of kerosene three hours earlier. Clinically she appeared anxious, but her vital signs were normal. She was fully conscious, and was not breathless, nor did she complain of abdominal pain or nausea. On auscultation, her chest appeared clear. Routine laboratory investigations did not reveal any abnormalities, and chest x-ray was also normal. She was managed with IV fluids, dexamethasone, and ceftriaxone for two days. She did not develop any systemic complications. However, on the third day, multiple painless blebs developed in the skin of the left buttock. These blebs

ruptured spontaneously, with minimal serous oozing, and healed completely within a week.

Results & Discussion

Kerosene is a petroleum derivative, and is a hydrocarbon compound. Like all other hydrocarbons, it is lipophilic in nature. After systemic absorption and distribution to various tissues following ingestion, it dissolves the lipid in the stratum corneum of the skin. This makes the skin more vulnerable to drying, thereby causing various lesions such as bullae, blisters, blebs, maculo-papular rashes, and even first degree skin burns.¹⁻³ However, isolated skin manifestations without any systemic features have so far not been reported following kerosene ingestion.

The probable reason for skin manifestations alone being present in this case is that the quantity ingested may have been insufficient to cause systemic features.

REFERENCES

1. Shih RD. Hydrocarbons. In: Goldfrank's Toxicological Emergencies. 1998. Appleton & Lange, USA. 1384-1387.
2. Patel AL. Kerosene poisoning: Varied systemic manifestations. J Assoc Physicians India 2004; 52: 65-66.
3. Annobil SH. Skin bullae following kerosene poisoning. Ann Tropical Paediatr 1998; 8: 45-47.

*(Author for correspondence): Physician, Alvas Health Center, Moodabidri, DK, Karnataka-574227. E-mail: sadanandanaik@sancharnet.in

**Consultant Dermatologist, Moodabidri, DK, Karnataka-574227