

P-67

Conscious seizure after strychnine tincture ingestion

Jariya Phuditshinnapatra, Summon Chomchai

Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

Objective: Strychnaceae is commonly found as an ingredient in traditional remedies in South-east Asia. We report a case of toxicity after ingestion of homemade strychnine tincture.

Case report: A 53 years-old Thai farmer with history of poorly controlled type-2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension and alcoholism presented with uncontrollable movement of all extremities after ingestion of homemade strychnine tincture made of dry barks and seeds of *Strychnos lucida* R. Br soaked in 40-degree distilled spirit. The strychnine tincture was for pain relief. At the emergency department his vital signs were unremarkable except a slight increase in blood pressure. Physical examination revealed full Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score with normal size of pupils and pupillary reflex, no stiff neck, Kernig and Brudzinski test were negative, full motor power and marked hyperreflexia was observed over all extremities, clonus and Babinski test were also positive both sides. He often developed spontaneous tonic contraction of all limb muscles which lasted 5 to 10 seconds each time with no impairment of consciousness. Muscle contraction could also be induced by light stimulation during the physical examination. Investigations including complete blood count, chemistry panel and ECG were all unremarkable. He was treated with intermittent dose of parenteral benzodiazepine and received intravenous hydration then admitted for clinical observation overnight. The next day he was discharged home with full recovery.

Conclusion: Ingestion of tincture made of dry barks and seeds of *strychnos spp.* plant can cause conscious seizure and hyperreflexia.