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ECG changes in Fukujyuso poisoning ; a case report

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Abstract:

Background: Fukujyuso (amur adonis), a poisonous plant that grows widely in Asia, contains a cardiac glycoside such as cimarín. Here, we report a rare case of Fukujyuso poisoning that shows ECG changes.

Case presentation: A twenty-year old woman took Fukujyuso in a suicide attempt. After 2 h she developed nausea and vomiting, and was brought to our hospital by ambulance 14 h after the ingestion. The patient had a blood pressure of 98/40 mm Hg, heart rate of 40 beats/min (irregular), 36.3 °C, respiratory rate of 15 breaths/min, and SpO₂ of 99%. The early ECG changes in this patient looked very similar to the ECG of digoxin poisoning that shows the horizontal ST depression. The ECG changes continued for 5 days but gradually returned to normal.

Conclusion: Cimarín is mainly excreted via the kidney, and its half-life is 23 h when taken orally. Therefore, a patient of Fukujyuso poisoning should be carefully monitored for at least 24 h.