Correspondence

Camphor Ingestion: An Unusual Cause of Seizure

Sir,

We found the case report “Camphor Ingestion: An Unusual Cause of Seizure” by Agarwal A and Malhotra HS1 to be very interesting. Camphor is responsible for household toxicological casualties especially in paediatric population.

We would like to bring out certain facts regarding Camphor compound and its medical management on consumption. It has been highlighted in the article that ‘Camphor is a pleasant smelling cyclic ketone’, but as the literature records Camphor is a compound having pungent odour and taste.2 So most of the patients who are brought with the history of consumption of Camphor intentionally or accidentally vomit shortly after ingestion due to its pungent taste.

The authors1 have mentioned that on consumption of camphor, it rapidly gets absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract and utility of activated charcoal is useless. But if the patient is brought immediately after consumption, activated charcoal can be employed to decrease gastrointestinal absorption since it has no inherent toxicity.2 Cathartic agents like sorbitol or magnesium compounds should be preferably used to decrease absorption rather than oil based cathartic agents,2 which may enhance camphor absorption since camphor is lipophilic in nature.1 By employing cathartic type of decontamination the chances of repeated convulsions due to camphor ingestion could be markedly reduced.

REFERENCES


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