Correspondence

Cryptostegia grandiflora Toxicity Manifesting as Hyperkalemia, Complete Heart Block and Thrombocytopenia

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Sir,

The article Cryptostegia grandiflora Toxicity Manifesting as Hyperkalemia, Complete Heart Block and Thrombocytopenia by Sangle S A, Inamdar S and Deshmukh V in May issue of JAPI 2015 at page 79-81 makes an interesting reading because it adds one more plant to the already known list of cardiotoxic plants namely Yellow Oleander (Thevetia peruviana), Aconite (Aconitum ferox), betel nut (Areca catechu), tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum).¹² It is worth mentioning that none of the classical ancient texts have mentioned the medicinal value of Cryptostegia grandiflora.³ Further its leaves have been used as hypoglycemic agent in folkloric practice.⁴ It is intriguing how come the local healer prescribed this remedy for burning micturition and for turbid urine. This incidence provides us a valuable lead how some of the herbal plants are being misused for therapeutic purposes for which they have not been indicated even in classical Ayurvedic text by unqualified people and thus causing potentially fatal arrhythmia. As regards this case it may be mentioned that apart from hyperkalemia and thrombocytopenia, Cryptostegia grandiflora treated cases are also at risk of developing hypoglycemia. As we have no details of his sugar value it remains a conjecture only. The resultant hypoglycemia needs to be corrected. The present case also highlights the importance of strict pharmacovigilance of all herbal based remedies as is the case with modern drugs as per WHO protocol. The issue of quality control and drug standardization is another aspect which also merits serious consideration. In abstract of the paper the name of plant has been spelt as Cryptostegia grandiflora which seems to be typographical error which is better avoided because it may create confusion in the minds of allopathic practitioners who are not well versed with botanical names of the plants.

References


Reply from Author

SA Sangle
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Sir,

Thanks for making the comments. In deed it is very rare and unusual presentation we have seen of the plant cryptostegia grandiflora. Inspire of severe hyperkalemia this patient survived. I checked his records & his BSL at the time of hyperkalemia was 98jTTg/dj.Typographical error is accepted. It should have been cryptostegia grandiflora.

Thanks once again for your comments.