

## **Acute Alachlor and Butachlor Herbicide Poisoning**

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**Objective:** Alachlor and butachlor are commonly used herbicides. Data on related acute human poisonings, however, are scarce (123). We retrospectively analyzed the data of human alachlor/butachlor poisoning in Taiwan. **Methods:** From October 1986 through February 2007, 63 alachlor and 70 butachlor poisoning cases were reported to the Taiwan National Poison Center. Their clinical data were reviewed and analyzed. **Results:** Most cases intentionally ingested the herbicides. The toxicities of alachlor and butachlor were largely similar. Twenty-eight out of 102 patients with oral exposure were asymptomatic, while the others developed vomiting, central nervous system depression, and other outcomes. Among patients involving other exposure pathways, gastrointestinal effects were the main manifestation. Three patients died after manifesting profound hypotension and/or coma following alachlor ingestion. **Conclusion:** Alachlor and butachlor poisonings are usually of low toxicity. However, severe neurological and cardiovascular outcomes could rarely develop, especially following oral ingestion. Medical management of such poisonings is primarily supportive. **References:** 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. Atlanta (GA): CDC, 2005. 2. Ecobichon DJ. Toxic effects of pesticides. In: Klaassen CP, eds. Casarett & Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons. 6th ed. New York, USA: McGraw-Hill Medical Pub. Division, 2001:794-795. 3. Alachlor. In: POISINDEX® System [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colorado: Thomson Micromedex. Updated periodically.