

Hair Dye Poisoning in a Tertiary Care Hospital

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Background : Human poisoning due to Hair dye has been reported from third world countries. Case reports on hair dye poisoning are getting published from various parts of India. Five patients admitted in our poison center after consuming hair dye (Super vasmol 33) have been analyzed keeping the following objectives. **Objectives** : 1.To analyze the presenting features of Hair dye poisoning.2.To evaluate the clinical course and outcome.3.To find the effectiveness of supportive therapy.4.To create awareness among medical fraternity on Hair dye poisoning. **Methods** : 1.Direct interview with the patient and /or caregiver.2.Identification of poisoning material by seeing the container or documentation by other doctors. **Case reports** : This study analysed the profile of 5 hair dye poisoning cases. Out of them, 4 were males. The only female patient was 6 months amenorrhoeic. As she consumed only few ml. she was asymptomatic. The fetal heart sounds and movements were good.Among the male patients, 2 patients developed angioneurotic edema. One was in need of emergency tracheostomy and the other one was treated comfortably with epinephrine injection. Both renal as well as respiratory failure occurred in 2 patients who died in the hospital itself. A male patient with respiratory failure presented with metabolic acidosis and hypotension died within 20 hrs. of admission to the hospital. The one who expired after 20 days of hospital admission had pancreatitis the cause of which was enigmatic as had binge alcohol intake with hair dye.Rhabdomyolysis occurred in 2 patients one of whom had very high CPK ie. > 60,000 units/dl. Alkaline diuresis was done for the patient who had rhabdomyolysis which prevented the development of renal failure in those patients. Nephrotic range of proteinuria was present in only 2 cases though albuminuria was found in 4 out of 5 cases.All the patients who developed acute renal failure died in spite of dialysis. Acute renal failure increases duration of hospital stay and mortality. **Conclusion** : Hair dye ingestion was associated with respiratory, muscular, renal and metabolic complications. As there is no specific antidote for paraphenylene diamine, early referral and prompt supportive therapy for the complications will minimize the morbidity and mortality.

[*Top](#)