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Paraquat Poisoning from Dermal Exposure

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Abstract

Objective: To collect and analyse the clinical characteristic data of paraquat poisoning from skin exposure cases in Thailand.

Methods: This was a retrospective study of review cases from the RBC toxic surveillance system from January, 1st 2009 to July, 15th 2014.

Results: There was totally 58 cases. Most were male (96.55%). The average age was 42+13 years. The contact skin area was mostly the perineum area. The main reason for skin exposure was from the leakage of the paraquat container. The mortality rate was 24.1%. The signs of skin exposure varies from no lesion to dermatitis, burn, ulcer and soft tissue infection. The renal and liver injuries were found mostly in fatal cases (92.8% and 57.1% respectively), only 1 case in non-fatal case developed renal and liver injuries. The lung injuries include dyspnea and hypoxia. The immunosuppressant medication: cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone were given in 17 cases (29.3%). For the fatal cases, all were male, had severe skin lesion and lung injuries. The median survival time 13(4 - 44) days after exposure.

Conclusions: Paraquat poisoning could cause fatal outcome, even by dermal exposure.