

ENDOSCOPIC FINDINGS AND OUTCOME IN INGESTION OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE; A RETROSPECTIVE CASE-CONTROL STUDY

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Objective: Sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) is a chemical compound which is widely used as a disinfectant or a bleaching agent at home. Data on the necessity of endoscopy in the investigation of individuals with sodium hypochlorite ingestion is limited and it is speculated that it may not be needed given that sodium hypochlorite is less irritant compared to other corrosive substances. This study aim to compare the outcome and endoscopic findings in patients who had ingested sodium hypochlorite compared to other types of corrosives.

Methods: In a retrospective study, 140 consecutive patients who were admitted to a tertiary hospital were enrolled. Data was collected using hospital records and patient's interviews on follow-up. Descriptive and analytical analysis was used to compare the demographics, endoscopic findings and outcome of patients with sodium hypochlorite ingestion as the cases and other corrosives as controls.

Results: Table 1 shows demographic characteristics of cases and controls. Majority of ingestions (73%) were suicidal attempts. The only sign that differed in cases and controls were dysphonia ($p=.01$). On the other hand in case group, mild abnormal endoscopic (3 cases) was happened in those with abdominal pain ($p=.043$).

Conclusion: Endoscopic findings in patients who have ingested sodium hypochlorite are limited and scares, which may indicate lack of necessity for urgent endoscopy in such patients.