

## Poster Abstracts

### PO-53

#### CASE REPORT OF VERATRUM NIGRUM L. POISONING IN MACAU

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**Background:** Veratrum (藜蘆, veratrum nigrum L.), which is also called black veratrum (黑藜蘆), human hair, Qili Dan, is pronounced as LǐLú in China. There is rare reporting among English writing literature. This paper analyzes a poisoned patient was admitted C.H.C.S.J. in 2014 and aims to show her characteristics.

Veratrum nigrum L. is very toxic and the toxicity patterns are similar to aconitine. The therapeutic dose and toxic dose are very close to make it a dangerous drug. It stimulates the gastrointestinal and acts on central and peripheral nervous system, lead to arrhythmias, respiratory and circulatory failure.

Veratrum as a group is quite common in Chinese and the United States. However, veratrum nigrum L. has few poisoning cases overseas and almost none reported in the European and American journals or able to be searched in pubmed. Veratrum nigrum L. is different from veratrum album and in Europe, Japan there were cases of veratrum album poisoning being reported.

There is no current diagnostic criteria for veratrum nigrum L. in China, making the diagnosis and standard treatment become difficult. There are some Chinese reports about this herbal medication poisoning in 2014.

**Case Presentation:** A 51-year-old woman presented gastrointestinal effect and dizziness after taking veratrum nigrum L.

Later she developed hypotension and need fluid and inotropic support. After treatment, the patient recovered uneventfully and later it was proven by the drug administration department that the Chinese herbal pharmacy wrongly picked up veratrum nigrum L. while mixing the formula. The original prescription uses 10 grams of rhaponticum uniflorum (L) DC (漏蘆). but was wrongly taken 10 grams of veratrum nigrum L. and resulted in poisoning.

**Conclusion:** This paper summarizes the preliminary investigation of veratrum nigrum L. poisoning and case characteristics. It is quite certain that this toxic drug can cause arrhythmia, respiratory and circulatory failure.

This article deepens the frontline physicians' understanding of veratrum nigrum L. poisoning. Investigations of this traditional Chinese medicine poisoning treatment found that although some strategies reported but supportive treatment is still mainstay. Other treatments such as atropine usage still need to be confirmed by further studies. The drug making and stocking system of Chinese pharmaceutical industry still has rooms for improvement. Finally, the education of drug poisoning prevention is of great importance in the community.

**Keywords:** Chinese medicine poisoning; Veratrum nigrum L. poisoning; Epidemiology; Macao SAR