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### Esophageal ulcer after ingestion of household bleach

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**Objective:** Ingestion of household bleach rarely produces significant mucosal injury, therefore conservative observation at home is usually advocated. We report a case of circumferential esophageal ulcer after ingesting a small amount of commercial bleach product.

**Case report:** A 19 years-old woman developed intractable bloody vomiting an hour after ingesting two sips of commercial bleach product composed of 6% w/w of sodium hypochlorite, pH 11. She also complained of epigastric pain and burning sensation in her oral cavity. Physical examination in the Emergency Department was unremarkable except for some oral mucosal burn. Her initial blood test showed marked elevation of white blood cell with predominant neutrophils. Emergency esophagogastroduodenoscopy was performed within 24 hours and showed circumferential superficial ulcer without necrosis (type IIB) at 30 cm from incisor with diffuse hemorrhagic mucosa in stomach and mild gastritis at pylorus. She was admitted and started to develop progressive anemia in the ward which required an episode of blood transfusion. After receiving supportive treatment and nutritional improvement for a month in the hospital, upper gastrointestinal study was performed and showed no abnormality of both anatomy and function.

**Conclusion:** Even though, household bleach product ingestion is usually benign and can be treated conservatively at home, some patient may develop serious toxicity which requires a long hospital stay and aggressive treatment.