



SEVERE IRRITATION AFTER COLLODION BASED WART REMOVER INGESTION IN CHILDREN

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TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Pediatric ingestions of a wart remover containing salicylic acid in collodion raise two concerns.

1. Local irritant properties of the formula:

After ingestion, the irritant properties of a collodion based wart remover are a serious concern and should not be underestimated. Dilution with water is not expected to prevent the development of lesions. On the package insert¹ the manufacturer suggests to ingest kaolin, breadcrumbs or mashed potato to avoid adhesion. We didn't find any evidence to support this proposal.

2. Systemic toxicity:

As these wart removers are usually presented in small volume bottles, there was no risk of systemic toxicity in our case series.

GALENIC EXPLORATION

Collodion is a mixture of nitrocellulose, ether and ethanol which forms an hydrophobic coating after evaporation of the solvents (1). Coating formation also occurs when collodion is exposed to water (2). The adhesive nature and the occlusive qualities of this coating provide the salicylic acid enough surface contact time to cause lesions and prevent dilution and removal of the acid (3). Toxicity from absorption of salicylic acid, ether or other ingredients is unlikely considering the small volumes ingested.



(1)



(2)



(3)

Age	Ingested volume	Reported symptoms	Clinical course
7 m	5 mL	Stomatitis, mucosal edema, siallorhea, grade 2 esophagitis.	Intubation and mask ventilation. Hospitalized: 5 days. Recovered.
2 y	3 mL	Burns (mouth, throat, nose), edema of the lips, siallorhea, sore throat.	Recovered.
2 y	Unknown	Burns (mouth, skin), emesis, grade 2 esophagitis.	Parenteral nutrition. Hospitalized: 13 days (infectious complications). Recovered.
2 y	5 mL	Burns (mouth), grade 2 esophagitis.	Parenteral nutrition. Recovered.
3 y 6 m	5 mL	Burns (mouth), edema of the lips, siallorhea, grade 2 esophagitis.	Nasogastric tube feeding. Hospitalized: 11 days. Recovered.

Table 1. Age, ingested volume, reported symptoms and clinical course of five children after ingestion of small quantities of a collodion based wart remover.

CASE SERIES

The Poison Centre records of five children ingesting a wart remover containing collodion were reviewed.

Age, ingested volume, reported symptoms and clinical course are shown in table 1.



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REFERENCES

1. Package Insert Aporil®, consulted on 6/10/2017.

For more information or if you wish to share similar cases, please contact: jonas.moens@poisoncentre.be