

A Case Report of Acute Methemoglobinemia after Massive Nitrobenzene Ingestion

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Introduction : Flower-N® is a flowering stimulant composition with 22% Nitrobenzene (NB). The main systemic effect associated with human exposure to NB is methemoglobinemia. We report a case of acute oral ingestion of a highly concentrated solution of NB remarkable for the occurrence of severe methemoglobinemia, recurrence of methemoglobinemia after methylene blue therapy, and hemolysis. **Case Report** : A 25 year old female presented after 3 hours following ingestion of 100ml of 22% NB (Flower -N®). Her initial methaemoglobin (MetHb) was 81% this responded to methylene blue. However, she developed recurrent methemoglobinemia on days 3 and 5 with hemolytic anemia. Matter-of- factly, the treatments that were provided were repeated MB treatment and exchange transfusion. **Discussion** : NB ingestion is a known cause of methemoglobinemia and hemolytic anemia. Acute oral ingestion of a highly concentrated solution leading to prolonged recurrent methemoglobinemia and hemolysis has not been reported. The recurrent suggests a long half-life. The recurrent MetHb has clinical implications as patients may require repeated treatment. **Conclusions** : Massive nitrobenzene ingestion can cause hemolysis and recurrent methemoglobinemia.