CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

A CASE OF IRRITANT CONTACT DERMATITIS INDUCED BY PULSATILLA KOREANA

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Background: Pulsatilla koreana which belongs to the family of Ranunculaceae has been used as a folk remedy for anti-inflammatory, analgesics and astringent effects in Korea. Ranunculaceae is known to contain blister-causing compound, protoanemonin. This compound causes irritant reactions even if it is applied to the skin for a while and continuous exposure may cause erythema, edema, blistering and hyperpigmentation.

Observation: A 52-year-old female patient was referred to our clinic with widespread bullae on both feet after she applied the ground plant stem, leaves and roots of Pulsatilla 1 day before her visit. The patient felt a burning sensation and pain two hours after applying the plants. After 4 hours of application, she was unable to tolerate the symptoms, removed them and found multiple erythematous bullae on her feet. She was diagnosed with irritant contact dermatitis due to Pulsatilla Koreana belonging to the Ranunculaceae family and treated with systemic steroid, antibiotics and antihistamines to reduce her symptom and prevent secondary infection, including daily dressing with topical steroid and antibiotics.

Key message: Although there are not many cases of ICD caused by plants, ICD caused by folk remedy using plants seems to be more common than expected and underestimated. Dermatologists should be kept in mind irritant contact dermatitis caused by these Ranunculaceae family, because it can cause blisters, symptoms within a short time and hyperpigmentation.