



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

# MARKING NUT DERMATITIS MASQUERADING AS MANY A DERMATOSIS—A STUDY OF ‘DELAYED IRRITANT DERMATITIS’ FROM SOUTH INDIA

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**INTRODUCTION :** Bhilawa(*Semecarpus anacardium*) is native to India ,related to cashew nut, also called marking nut as its juice is used to mark clothes by washermen . It is used as topical indigenous medicine for several ailments, also used as talisman for religious purpose.

**OBJECTIVE :** To study contact dermatitis to Bhilawa (Marking nut) , its clinical features ,time and appearance of skin lesions , manifestations and missed diagnosis.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS :** A prospective study from Jan 2017 to July 2018 were studied from two centers in Hyderabad including 140 suspected patients of suspected irritant contact dermatitis. Cases and family members were examined, photographed and followed until clearance. The incubation period , clinical features, manifestations were recorded. Patch tests were done in only 10 cases as consent was denied by the rest when explained the suspected cause.

**RESULTS :** The clinical features included varied manifestations like erythema, vesiculo-papules, purpuric, angioedema like and superficial erosions, ulcers and eschar. The clinical diagnosis was mainly by history of contact with Bhilawa either direct or indirect. The dermatosis mimicked urticaria, angioedema, acute irritant contact dermatitis, drug induced exanthema, erythema multiforme, bullous pemphigoid, chemical burns , fixed drug eruption, scabies, insect bite reaction, erysipelas and cutaneous necrosis . It affected both men and women of all ages. The lesions appeared from 2 hrs to 48 hrs and in few cases upto 72 hrs.

**CONCLUSION :** Bhilawa dermatitis can be missed for many other dermatosis unless there is clinical suspicion and history is sought. This study shows the varied manifestations due to delayed acute irritant reactions ,may mislead to wrong diagnosis.

