



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

ARSENIC CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER: STILL AN UNSOLVED ISSUE. THE FULL SCOPE OF THE DERMATOLOGIC AFFECTION.

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Background: Arsenic contamination of groundwater has been reported in a large number of undeveloped and developed countries worldwide including Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, China, Ghana, Hungary, India, Mexico, Nepal, Thailand, Taiwan, UK, United States, and Vietnam. Some of the most affected, with severe cases, and better-documented continents are Asia and South America. Although there are several on-going projects in Argentina to reduce the arsenic contamination, population is still widely affected and the number of medical consultation is not decreasing.

Observation: The exposure to arsenic can come from air, food and water. However, the elevated concentration of inorganic arsenic in drinking water is the main cause of arsenic toxicity. The clinical manifestations of chronic arsenic intoxication depends on the doses, time of exposure and host susceptibility. Even though the onset symptoms are insidious and the variety is vast, it can affect most systems of the body and the skin manifestations requires special attention due to the diagnostic specificity.

Key message: The objective of this presentation is to share the Argentinian experience as one of the most affected countries worldwide with arsenic chronic toxicity showing several cases, which will include from the simplest manifestations until the most severe complication such as skin cancer. We will develop how to early diagnose the clinic symptoms and show the different treatments that can be offered at the different stages of the disease.

