

TOXICOLOGY - II**PLANT POISONING**

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Abstract: *Poisoning is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in India. Common poisons encountered are chemicals, household substances or drugs. Envenomation, poisoning due to ingestion or exposure of toxic plants or plant parts also constitute a substantial proportion. Children usually become victims of these toxic plants due to accidental ingestion, whereas adolescents consume these products for suicidal purpose. Plant poisons vary in their mechanism of toxicity, fatal dose, fatality and fatal period. This article reviews plant poisons which are commonly encountered in pediatric and adolescent age groups.*

Keywords: *Plant poisoning, Children, Datura, Strychnine, Abrus, Mushroom.*

Points to Remember

- *In India, plant poisoning is common in rural population, which include datura, cannabis, strychnine, arbus precatorius, semicarpus anacardium, calotropis, croton tiglium, mushroom, etc.*
- *Datura poisoning causes dryness of mouth, dysphagia, dilated pupils, dry hot skin, drunken gait, delirium and drowsiness.*
- *Cannabis is consumed as smoke or by ingestion as chocolates, brownies, space cakes and majoun, which are usually called edibles. Clinicians should suspect cannabis toxicity in any child with sudden onset of lethargy or ataxia.*
- *Nux vomica seeds poisoning is a differential diagnosis for tetanus and refractory status epilepticus.*
- *Semecarpus anacardium in large dose, produces blisters in throat and severe gastrointestinal irritation, dyspnea, tachycardia, hypotension, cyanosis, absence of reflexes, delirium, coma and death. Acute renal failure can also occur.*
- *Ingestion of Abrus precatorius seeds or extract can cause hemorrhagic gastritis, fainting, vertigo, vomiting, dyspnea, convulsions, cardiac failure and prostration.*
- *Finely crushed or chewed apple seeds or improperly cooked tapioca can lead to cyanide poisoning. Ingestion of seeds in toto is harmless as the seeds have tough outer coating which protects the amygdalin inside them and also resistant to digestive juices.*

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