

Inhalation of “Borax” and Risk of Severe Stridor

Obaid O*

Department of Pediatrics, MOH, Makkah, Saudi Arabia

*Corresponding author: Obaid O, Department of Pediatrics, MOH, Makkah, Saudi Arabia, Tel: 00966500606352, E-mail: Oaobaid@moh.gov.sa

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Abstract

Stridor in children is not uncommon reason to visit emergency department and usually due to croup but inhalation of toxic substance may cause severe stridor which is uncommon.

Keywords: Stridor; Pediatric; Sodium Borate

Case Report

A 9 year old Saudi girl presented to emergency department accompanied by her grandmother with history of dry cough, shortness of breath and audible wheeze for more than 12 hours.

She has no history of fever, foreign body ingestion and chronic cough.

No history of contact with sick person and no history of lip swelling or skin rash.

Her vaccination status up to date.

She was a Preterm 30 weeks, admitted to Neonatal intensive care for 2 months and discharge well.

In emergency room she was ill looking with biphasic stridor, kept on oxygen 10 liter/min and given one dose IM epinephrine 0.3 mg and nebulizer Racemic epinephrine, connected to Cardiorespiratory monitor and 2 IV lines was inserted started on IV Fluids and given one dose of dexamethasone.

Urgent consultation to ENT was done and they recommend bronchoscopy to rule out Foreign body ingestion.

At that time ICU team were involved and the bronchoscopy done for her in Operation room and revealed tracheal edema.

After Bronchoscopy clinically she was better with less stridor and no respiratory distress so admitted to general pediatric ward under close observation.



Figure 1: Example for slime toy

The team meet her to ask more about the reason for all this symptoms and she was very smart girl , she told us that she buy Slime “toy” from market and after that she complains from sore throat then dry cough because of strong smile for this material (Figure 1). Family was educated about risk of this toy and after 72 hours she was improved completely and discharge.

Discussion

Slime “toy” contain glue and Sodium burate “BORAX”.

According to CDC inhalation of borax can cause sore throat, cough, Shortness of breath and nose bleed.

Sodium borate is a toxic white, powdery mineral used in cleaning, laundry, personal care products and even children’s toys as a buffering pH adjuster.

Slime “toy” contain glue and Sodium burate “BORAX”.Stridor following inhalation of this substance not reported in literature but in our case it was the major concern and possible life threatening condition.

We thought about other causes of stridor like:

- Group
- Foreign body ingestion
- Anaphylaxis
- But based on history and Physical examination all common causes have been excluded

Conclusion

Inhalation of sodium burate “borax” may cause stridor and upper airway obstruction in children with small airway.

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