delayed neuropathy after trichlorfon intoxication

Sir: We have read with interest the studies of delayed neuropathy after organophosphorus poisoning by Vasilcescu et al. We now report nine cases of delayed neuropathy after trichlorfon (Fibol-E) intoxication.

We observed 70 cases of trichlorfon intoxication (mainly suicide attempts) between 1971 and 1983. Twenty-five of them were re-examined in 1984. In 12 cases (48%) no sign of delayed polyneuropathy developed. However, in 28 cases, the patients had complaints (paraesthesiae, weakness of hands) after 2-3 months of poisoning but at the time of the re-examination they were healthy. Eight patients had severe delayed polyneuropathy. All of them, except one, consumed alcohol prior to or at the same time as the poison. After 1-5-9 years from the time of intoxication seven patients showed footdrop, difficult gait, distal muscle atrophy of the peroneal and small foot muscles, abolishing Achilles' reflex. The peroneal nerve was excitatory in all seven patients; electromyography revealed marked distal denervation of the lower limb muscles. One patient had very brisk knee jerks, patellar clonus and Babinski's sign 2 years after poisoning. His lower limbs were so spastic that he was nearly unable to walk. One patient had severe gastrointestinal haemorrhage and pneumonia ten days after the organophosphorus poisoning. Therefore he was excluded from the study. (He has muscular rigidity and Parkinsonian tremor beside the distal polyneuropathy.)

In conclusion, 36% of our re-examined patients had severe residual signs of delayed polyneuropathy mainly distal motor type. In one case signs of CNS lesions have persisted.

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Reference

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