

Fatal poisoning by malathion

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Malathion, referred to as organophosphorus is used for control of insects on fruits and vegetables. Organophosphate compounds can cause depression of respiratory and cardiovascular centres. Suicidal attempts with increasing use of pesticides in agriculture showed that agricultural workers are at increased risk of poisoning. Rarely, they may be used in homicidal poisoning. This case of interest described a housemaid, who was found dead at home after consuming some poisonous liquid. She was in severe debts with her employer, and had tried to escape previously. Autopsy showed froth in the mouth and nostrils with pleural effusion. Histological examination showed presence of sinusoidal dilatation with vacuolations in hepatocytes. Kidney sections showed glomerular degeneration with intracytoplasmic vacuoles in renal tubular epithelial cells. Further discussion will describe gross findings and histological features, which are rare findings in this type of poisoning. Previous literature had reported such findings in animals such as rats and pigeons. This study would be useful for comparison in future studies of malathion poisoning.

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