

Sodium hypochlorite

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Sodium chlorite accident: case report

A 66-year-old woman developed soft tissue injury, bruising, swelling and pain as manifestation of sodium chlorite accident during root canal irrigation with sodium chlorite [*dosage and route not stated*].

The woman presented to an emergency department with significant swelling of the right side of her face, bruising and pain (rated 5/10) 3 hours after undergoing root canal treatment (RCT). A letter from her dentist stated that a sodium chlorite accident had occurred during RCT of her right first premolar. Iatrogenic perforation was suspected, and she was admitted.

The woman received amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, dexamethasone, paracetamol and diclofenac. There was no nerve injury, and her periorbital tissues were unaffected. One day after admission, an x-ray showed pulp floor bur penetration; surgery was not required. Further treatment included local cold compresses for 24 hours, followed by warm compresses to reduce bruising and swelling. The woman made a full recovery. However, bruising was still visible 1 month after admission.

Author comment: "*The presenting history of this condition was pathognomonic with a sodium hypochlorite accident.*"

Hatton J, et al. Management of the sodium hypochlorite accident: A rare but significant complication of root canal treatment. *BMJ Case Reports* 2015; No. 207480, 25 Mar 2015 - United Kingdom 803120157